

# AWARENESS TOWARDS LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL PRACTICES AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS

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**Abstract :** Driven by the demand to increase learning opportunities, educators and trainers are continually challenged to develop and integrate instructional delivery options and reduce costs without impacting instructional integrity. Our students have changed radically. Their life is surrounded by computers, digital music players, video cams, cell phones, and all the other toys and tools of the digital age. As a result of this technological development and their interaction with it, today's students think and process information differently from their predecessors. For them a packed classroom equipped with, chalk and blackboard, text books, old curriculum and a teacher explaining abstract concepts with the limited tools at her disposal will be non-tolerable. There is an increasing need and demand to respond to diverse students' needs and provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences in education. Technological innovations are having a significant impact on educational systems at all levels. Online courses, teaching aids, educational software, social networking tools and other emerging technologies are disrupting the traditional classroom environment. A descriptive survey method was used for the study and a sample of 100 graduate students was randomly selected. Questionnaire prepared by the investigator with expert advice was used for collecting the data. Analysis of the data showed that the graduate students showed medium awareness towards latest technological practices.

**Keywords :** *Awareness, Latest technological practices, Graduate Students*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of new technology has influenced every aspects of human life. Today, we can't think of a class room without technology. Due to these developments and evolution, standards of learning would be higher in the 21st century than it has been in the 20th century. In order to prepare the students to navigate the 21st century world they must be made competent to technology based instruction in the class room. To be able to survive and be successful in the future school environment, teachers would need to acquire additional knowledge and skills in the field of technology. Technology has taken education to the next level, breaking the barriers of classroom walls. As we advance into the 21 st century, we realize that technology has become an integral part of our everyday lives. Technological advancements are inevitable as that's the way the world is moving. It has also incorporated into the world of education where children get to experience a new way of learning and educators get to practice more effective methods of teaching. In today's dynamic world, we are surrounded by technology and in no way do we see ourselves going backwards. The productive use of information technology is one of the most significant indices of national and economic development. The improvements in technology, especially computer technology, bring changes and make things easier for every part of daily life. It is a reality that the role of technology is highly significant and globally discussed issue in contemporary education policy (Jegede, 1990). Technology has affected us in every aspect of our lives from communication to education. In the age of science and technology, knowledge is being increased Introduction 8 rapidly and consequently the social changes are being occurred. This has caused revolutionary changes in the educational system. So the developed countries are trying at faster rate to make their education more effective and qualitative by using varieties of instructional equipments and materials to stimulate thinking, reasoning and action of the learner.

## III NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The rapid emergence of technological innovations over the last half century (particularly digital technologies) has had a huge impact on the possibilities for learning in the distributed environment. In fact, if you look at the four dimensions, distributed learning environments are increasingly encroaching on instructional territory that was once only possible in face to face environments. For example, in the time and fidelity dimensions, communication technologies now allow us to have synchronous distributed interactions that occur in real-time with close to the same levels of fidelity as in the face to face environment. In the humanness dimension, there is an increasing focus on facilitating human interaction in the form of computer-supported collaboration, virtual communities, instant messaging, blogging, etc. Additionally there is ongoing research investigating how to make machines and computer interfaces more social and human. Even in the space dimension, there are some interesting things happening with mixed reality environments and environments that simultaneously facilitate both distributed and face to face interactions. The widespread adoption and availability of digital learning technologies has led to increased levels of integration of computer-mediated instructional elements into the traditional face to face learning experience. In addition, there is greater emphasis on person to- person interaction, and increasing use of synchronous and high-fidelity technologies to mediate those interactions. Advances in network and communication technologies have shifted the way we deliver instruction to learners in remote locations. Owing to web enhanced communication systems and newer formats of media, various innovative instructional methods have provided learning solutions meeting the diverse needs of instructors and learners in schools and private organizations. A major concern in adopting the new technologies is whether or not educators utilize new technologies for the convenience and efficiency in

the delivery of educational content .In this study, the investigator tried to find out the awareness of graduate students towards the latest technological practices.

#### IV HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- There is significant difference in the level of awareness towards latest technological practices among graduate students.
- There is a significant difference in the level of awareness towards latest technological practices in various components such as
  - Use of latest technological practices by teacher.
  - Use of latest technological practices in educational field by the learner.
  - Latest technological knowledge usage in general purpose by the learner.
  - Awareness of technological knowledge in the field of Education
  - Attitude of the learner towards the latest technological practices .

#### V OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the level of awareness towards latest technological practices among graduate students.
- To find out the level of awareness in various components of latest technological practices among graduate students such as
  - Use of latest technological practices by teacher.
  - Use of latest technological practices in educational field by the learner.
  - Latest technological knowledge usage in general purpose by the learner.
  - Awareness of technological knowledge in the field of Education
  - Attitude of the learner towards the latest technological practices .

#### VI METHODOLOGY

Survey method was used for the study. Graduate students in various colleges in Kerala constitutes the population of the study. The investigator selected a sample of 100 graduate students by using random sampling technique. Data were collected by administering self constructed questionnaire. The tool consisted of 25 items covered in 5 areas such as : use of latest technological practices by teacher, use of latest technological practices in educational field by the learner, latest technological knowledge usage in general purpose by the learner, Awareness of technological knowledge in the field of Education , attitude of the learner towards the latest technological practices . Interpretations of the results were done using descriptive statistical analysis.

#### VII RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STUDENTS

Analysis of data means studying the organized material in order to discover the inherent facts. The data are studied from as many angles as possible to explore the new facts (Koul, 1998). Statistical techniques have contributed greatly in gathering, organizing, analyzing and interpreting numerical data. Inferential or sampling statistics are used because they enable the researcher to make generalizations or inferences about populations from the observations of the characteristics of samples. The data collected were analyzed to through light on the objectives of the study and the analysis and interpretation of results have been presented under the following tables and figures. Awareness towards the latest technological practices were analyzed from the graduate students by using a questionnaire. The questionnaire was arranged in such a way that 25 questions were distributed under five dimensions to find out awareness towards latest technological practices. Out of these 25 questions 5 questions were included from five dimensions. Findings from the analysis of the questionnaire throws light into the awareness towards the latest technological practices. The question- wise percentage analysis and dimension- wise percentage analysis is given in the following tables.

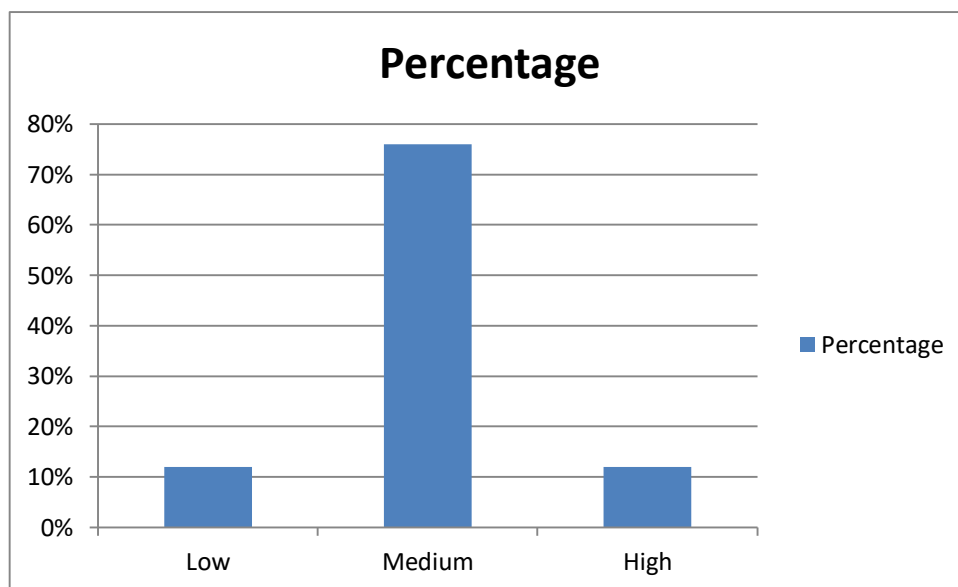
**Table 1: Descriptive statistical analysis of level of awareness of student- teachers on Latest technological practices**

Sl. No.	Statistics	Value
1	Sample size	100
2	Maximum score	25
3	Minimum score	0
4	Highest score	20
5	Lowest score	9
6	Mean	13.48
7	Median	13
8	Mode	12
9	Standard Deviation	2.8

The results obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics. M+S.D and M-S.D were calculated and the scores obtained above M+S.D were treated as high awareness scores, M-S.D as low awareness scores and in between values as medium awareness scores. These calculations were done with total awareness on latest technological practices.

Level of Awareness	Percentage
Low	12%
Medium	76%
High	12%

From the above table it is clear that 76% of the graduate students have a medium level of awareness towards latest technological practices. Only 12 % of the students have high and low awareness towards latest technology.

**Figure 1: Percentage of awareness of graduate students on latest technological practices**

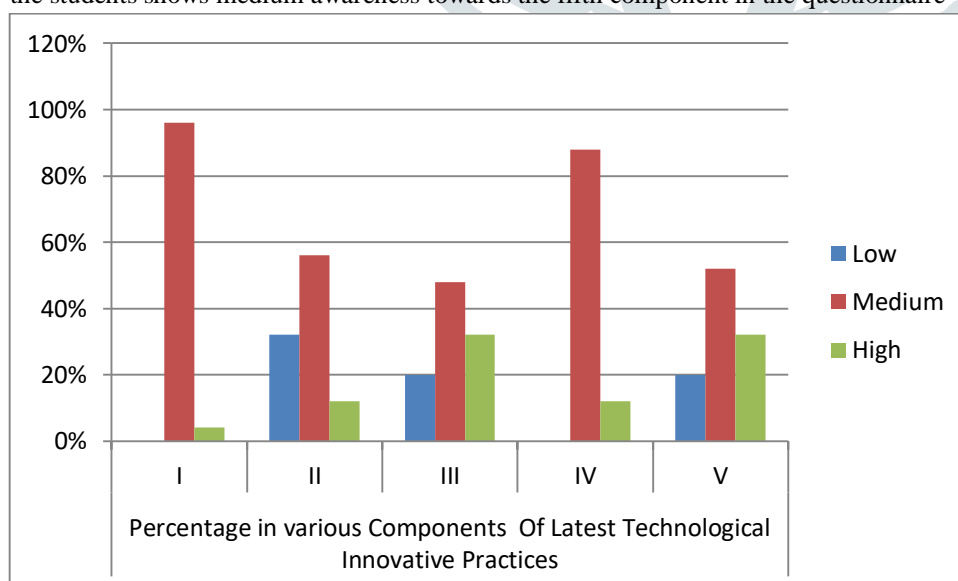
**Table 2: Descriptive statistical analysis of level of awareness of graduate students on various components of Latest technological practices**

Sl. No.	Statistics	Components of Flipped Classroom				
		I	II	III	IV	V
1	Sample size	100	100	100	100	100
2	Maximum score	5	5	5	5	5
3	Minimum score	0	0	0	0	0
4	Highest score	3	5	5	5	5
5	Lowest score	1	1	1	1	3
6	Mean	1.56	2.16	3.68	1.96	4.16
7	Median	2	2	4	2	4
8	Mode	1	2	4	1	4
9	Standard Deviation	0.583	1.1	1.28	1.1	0.746

**Table 4: Percentage of awareness of graduate teachers on various components of Latest technological practices**

Level of Awareness	Percentage in various Components Of Latest Technological Practices				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Low	0 %	32%	20%	0 %	20%
Medium	96%	56%	48%	88%	52%
High	4%	12%	32%	12%	32%

The results obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics.  $M + S.D$  and  $M - S.D$  were calculated and the scores obtained above  $M + S.D$  were treated as high awareness scores,  $M - S.D$  as low awareness scores and in between values as medium awareness scores. Component wise awareness also calculated in the same manner. From the above table it is seen that 96 % of the graduate students have a medium level of awareness towards first component of latest technological practices, 56% of the graduate students have medium awareness towards the second component, 48% of the students shows medium awareness towards third component, 88% of the graduate student shows the medium awareness towards the fourth component and 52% of the students shows medium awareness towards the fifth component in the questionnaire

**Figure 2: Percentage of awareness of graduate teachers on various components on Latest technological practices**

## VIII CONCLUSION

The above results shows that 76% of the graduate students have medium awareness towards the use of latest technological practices. 12 % of the graduate students shows high and low awareness regarding the same. The questions are

arranged in five dimensions and component wise analysis shows that 96 % of the graduate students have a medium level of awareness towards first component of latest technological practices, 56% of the graduate students have medium awareness towards the second component, 48% of the students shows medium awareness towards third component, 88% of the graduate student shows the medium awareness towards the fourth component and 52% of the students shows medium awareness towards the fifth component in the questionnaire. For the third and fifth components, graduate students shows comparatively higher awareness than other components. From this result we can conclude that all the students shows medium awareness towards the latest technologies. Teacher's usage of latest technological practices seen average (96%) from the analysis. 32 % of students possess higher positive attitude towards latest technological practices. A good teacher tries to use the latest technological practices to meet the diverse needs of the learner. Awareness towards these methods and techniques will leads to the fruitful teaching – learning process.

## IX ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank my supervising guide Prof. (Dr.) Celine Pereira, former Director, School of Pedagogical Sciences, M G University for the scholarly suggestions and correction provided during the course of my study.

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