

Internet Usage among College Students in Relation to Their Location

VIKARAM SINGH

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education and Community Service, Punjabi University, Patiala.

DR. PUSHPINDER KAUR

Professor, Department of Education and Community Service, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Abstract

Rapid expansion of internet has provided better opportunities for communication, information and social interaction. Development of internet technology not only benefits users but also have a negative effect, especially among college students. In this study was conducted on 300 students selected through stratified sampling from colleges affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University to explore internet usage pattern. Data collected through self-structured and standardized internet usage scale (33 items on 5 point Likert scale). Analysis showed that the internet usage of rural college students do not differ significantly from the internet usage of urban college students. It was further concluded that the mean time spent on internet was highest for educational purposes and fixative outcome as compare to social and online purposes.

Keywords: - Social, Educational, Online, Fixative, Rural and Urban.

Introduction

Internet stand for International Network, which began in 1950's by Vint Cerf known who is also as the father of Internet. Internet is a 'network of networkers' that consists millions of private and public networks of local to global scope. Basically, network is a group of two or more computers system linked together. The Internet, name for a vast, worldwide system consisting of people, information and computers, is used by millions of people all over the world to access and exchange information. Users range from researchers, educators, students, government officials and business personal to private citizens. The internet has revolutionized by computer and communication world like nothing before it. It has evolved as a new scholarly communication system. It represents one of the most success examples of the benefits of sustained investment and commitment to research and development of information infrastructure. Beginning with the early research in packet switching, government, industry, and academic have been partners in evolving and deploying this exciting new technology. (Leiner, et. al., 2003).

The 21st century has hailed in a new era of digital technology in the lives of all ages. Penetration of high speed internet access has increased almost exponentially during the last two decades driving cultural change where billions of people conduct day-to-day activities in cyber space (Odlyzko, 2013). In the many

countries, digital technology has redefined many aspects of life: work and career, social interaction, rest and relaxation. These trends have been driven by the falling costs of cellular wireless services and hardware (Diamandis & Kotlar, 2012). Number of internet usage have been increasing tremendously record data on internet usage among major countries reported in table 1

Table 1 Country Wise Distribution of Internet Users

Country	Population	Internet Users	Percentage (Internet Density)	Global Internet user Share in Percentage
China	1,388,232,693	731,434,547	52.69	19.63
India	1,342,512,706	462,124,989	34.42	12.38
United States	326,474,013	286,942,362	87.98	7.69
Brazil	211,243,220	139,111,185	65.85	3.73
Indonesia	263,510,146	132,700,000	50.36	3.56
Japan	126,045,211	118,453,595	93.98	3.17
Russia	143,375,006	104,553,691	72.92	2.80
Nigeria	191,835,936	93,591,174	48.79	2.51
Germany	80,636,124	71,727,551	88.95	1.92
Mexico	130,222,815	69,915,219	53.69	1.87
Rest of the world	3,314,941,100	1,521,419,110	45.90	40.77
Total	7,519,028,970	3,731,973,423	49.63	100

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.html>, (Pandita, 2017).

Table 1: shows that China is the world's most populous country, having over 1.38 billion people, which is more than 731 million people access internet, constituting 52.69 per cent internet penetration in China. Of the total global internet users, 19.63 per cent come from China, followed by 12.38 per cent from India and 7.69 per cent from United States, with penetration percentages of 34.42 per cent and 87.69 per cent respectively. Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Nigeria, Germany, and Mexico together constitute nearly 20 per cent of the global Internet users.

Operational Definition

Internet Usage: The term internet usage refers to the purpose and extent to which the college students used internet. Loafing around the internet, which includes shopping, sending e-cards, personal e-mail, gambling online, chatting, game playing, auctioning, stock trading and doing other personal activities etc.

Review of Related Literature

Internet was used for achieving entertainment, sharing videos and pictures an instant messaging companionship, communication and for maintaining off line networks (De Leeuw et. al., 2010). There were significant differences in usage of internet between urban and rural students. The majority of urban students used internet primarily for information whereas rural students mainly used internet for education purpose (Loan, 2011). There were significant stream wise differences in internet usage. The students of computer science access and utilize internet and its services than the students of other faculties (Loan, 2011). There was no significant relationship between internet addiction and emotional intelligence (Sanghvi et. al., 2015); there was a significant gender different in emotional stability, independence and emotional maturity of internet users (Dangwal et al., 2016); there was negative and inverse correlation between internet addiction and emotional intelligence among nursing interns (Ibrahim et. al., 2016).

Adolescents with higher level of alienation tended to report more pathological internet use (Zhen et al., 2011); No significant difference was found between high alienated and low alienated senior secondary students on their internet usage (Dhull et. al., 2015). There was a positive association between alienation from school and achievement in mathematics. (Atnafu, 2012); there was a negative association between learning alienation and academic achievement (Johnson 2001); there exist a negative relationship between alienation and level of education (Traub 2011).

There was a positive correlation between internet use and depression (Arnbjarnardottir, 2015); there was a positive and significant relationship between depression and internet addiction (Bahrainian 2014; Akin et. al. 2011, Sachdev et. al.2014; Ozsakar et. al. 2015). No gender difference found in usage of social networking sites, depression and sleeps duration (Pentic et. al. 2012). There was no linear association between facebook activity and depression or between facebook attachment and depression (Simoncic 2012). Most of the student's attitude towards use of internet was positive for getting the information and learning new things and research all over the world. The study indicated that students supposed to learn in new environment about use of internet in colleges for collecting information (Hong et al. 2003). Use of internet also enables the students to be self-directed, self-paced, and lifelong learners (Dryli & Kinnaman 1996, Munianly 2010). It was found in a study conducted in Korea that the rate of internet addiction was the highest among adolescents up to age of 19. The study found that addiction to smartphone significantly affected emotional intelligence among the youth (Gill, 2019).

Objective of the Study

- To investigate the significance of difference in the internet usage among college students in relation to their location.

Hypothesis of the Study

- There exists no significant difference in the internet usage among college students in relation to their location.

Delimitation of the Study

- The study was delimited to college students of Himachal Pradesh University.
- The study was delimited to only location. No other psychological or social variables were undertaken.

Research Methodology

Descriptive survey method of research was used in the present study which explored the internet usage among college students in relation to their location.

Sample of the Study

A sample of 300 college students of Himachal State of two government colleges was taken for the present study. 200 rural students and 100 urban students of undergraduate final year course from government colleges affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla were selected by giving to location for the study.

Tools Used

In the present study Internet usage means total scores obtained by the college students in Internet Usage questionnaire developed by researcher himself. Self structured and standardized Internet Usage Scale of 33 items on 5 point Likert Scale- Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often and Always on four dimensions- Educational Purposes, Social Purposes, Online Purposes and fixative usage was used in the present study. In order to make the scale standardized, its reliability and validity was calculated by the researcher. For the content and face validity of the scale, scale was given to the team of five experts from the various fields like language, psychological, education and technology. On the bases of their opinions this scale was valid which was capable in achieving the objective of the scale. In order to find out the reliability of the scale two tests Cronbach Alfa and test retest method of reliability were used. Their values came out to be 0.83 and 0.95 respectively. Out of the total 33 items on 4 dimensions, 27 items were positive stated items whose scoring was done by assigning the scores like 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Remaining 6 negative stated items were scored by assigning scores like 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1.

Statistical Techniques

In the light of the objective of the study, to test the hypothesis, t-test was applied.

Results and Conclusions

After collecting data, scoring was done with above mentioned procedure. Mean and SD scores of were calculated and reported as under. In order to find out the significance of internet usage of college students in relation to their location, t-test was applied and results are reported here under.

Table 2: Internet Usage of College Students in relation to Location (N=300)

Sr. No.	Dimensions	Rural (N=200)		Urban (N=100)		MD	SEd	t-value
		M	SD	M	SD			
1.	Educational Purposes	47.80	6.66	47.46	6.52	0.34	0.81	0.42 ^{NS}
2.	Social Purposes	27.39	6.01	28.26	5.49	0.86	0.72	1.22 ^{NS}
3.	Online Purposes	16.69	5.31	16.60	5.36	0.09	0.65	0.14 ^{NS}
4.	Fixative Usage	20.38	3.82	20.25	3.85	0.13	0.47	0.28 ^{NS}
5.	Internet Usage	112.27	13.96	112.57	13.66	0.30	1.69	0.18 ^{NS}

Table 2 reveals that the mean and SD of internet usage of rural college students are 47.80 and 6.66 and of urban college student is 47.46 and 6.52 for educational purposes. This indicates that rural college students used more internet than the urban college students for their educational purposes ($47.80 > 47.46$). The mean difference between the internet usage between rural and urban college students for educational purposes is 0.34 which is very minimum. The t- value of significance difference of internet usage of rural and urban college students is 0.42, which is not significant. Thus it can be concluded that there is no significant mean difference between the internet usage of rural and urban college students for educational purposes.

As far as social purposes of internet usage is concerned, urban college students have high mean score than the rural college students (28.26 vs. 27.39). The t-value for internet usage of social purposes of rural

and urban college students is 1.22, which is not significant. This indicates that there is no significant difference between internet usage for social purposes between the rural and urban college students.

The mean and SD of internet usage for online purpose of rural college students are 16.69 and 5.31 whereas the mean and SD of urban college students for internet usage are 16.60 and 5.36. To check the significance difference mean difference, t-test was administered and their value came out to be 0.14. The calculated t-value is not significant. This indicates that rural college students used more internet for online purposes than the urban college students ($16.69 > 16.60$). Though this difference is not statistically significance.

In order to assess the fixative usage values of internet between rural and urban college students, their mean and SD came out to be 20.38, 3.82 and 20.25 and 3.85. The mean difference is 0.47. The calculated t-value came out to be 0.28, which is not significant. This reveals that there is no significant difference between internet usage of rural and urban college students for negative impact.

Therefore, from above interpretation, it is crystal clear that there is no significant difference between the internet usage of rural college students and internet usage of urban college students. Thus the hypothesis stating, "There exists no significant difference in the internet usage among college students in relation to their location." is accepted. The use of internet for educational, social or, online purpose, fixative usage is same for both rural college students as well as urban college students. It was further concluded that the mean time spent on internet for educational purpose and fixative usage was more as compared to mean time spent on internet for social and online purposes.

Discussion of the Results

From the present study, it can be concluded that internet usage of rural college students do not differ significantly from the internet usage of urban college students. This result is also supported by the findings of other studies. As technology continues to grow at a faster rate and data become available on the web and failure to detect Internet Addiction at an early stage will make it a silent killer, affecting millions of people, especially children and adolescents. Internet use is an emerging negative outcome issue as research findings have highlighted that includes the supply of wrong information, loneliness, suppressing creative abilities etc. Though use of internet has been found as a silent killer for its negative outcomes but it has also been proven to be very beneficial for its educational purposes such as study revealed that use of internet promotes students' academic performance, acquisition of career information, acquire special guidance, up-to-date knowledge of whole world, accessing books, journals and magazines, solution to any academic or educational problem etc.

Educational Implications

This is an area for future research, and in order to provide better service from related ICT industries, it is suggested that the following categories could be examined: education, health care, entertainment (movies, and music), job hunting, weather and news, financial information and personal use. Finally, managing home finance and purchasing online have become increasingly popular in recently years and the trends of this growth should be analyzed. So, according to the need of time, school and parents, teachers have to make use of technology in their teaching so that teachers and students can have more understanding of the content and up to date their knowledge.

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