



# Impact of the Internet Shutdown in Ranchi, Jharkhand: A Survey

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**Abstract:** People of Ranchi, the capitol of the state of Jharkhand, India, has experience a first ever Internet Blackout on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 since Jharkhand has formed in 2000. Internet has become the most important thing in the life of a common person. Almost everyone is fond of surfing the Internet for entertainment, studies, or just to kill some time- like to stream movies, to post status, or to just view reels of others on different social media platforms. So, it's not exaggerated if one thinks that the Internet has become part and parcel of a person's life and if one cannot access the Internet for some reason, like, Internet Blackout, and then the real question arises- can we live without the Internet? This paper is for anyone who has recently experienced the Internet Shutdown and wants to know how it can affect an internet savvy person. During this paper, we described the Effect of Internet Shutdown to the people especially students of different university in Ranchi, Jharkhand and trends of internet shutdown in India.

**Index Terms-** Internet, Internet Blackout in Ranchi, Life without the Internet, Internet Shutdown in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Internet shutdown has become a major problem in India and it is not vague to say that India is becoming the capitol of the world for Internet Shutdown. The growing number of closures in an era where India uses the benefits of mainstream technology, such as the Internet, to promote and expand Digital India, illustrates the challenges that creates barrier in the way of achieving India's digital objectives (Kathuria et. Al 2018). In order to exert control over the flow of information, For example, defines an Internet outage as a "deliberate disruption of the Internet or electronic communications, leaving them inaccessible or effectively unusable, for a certain population within a place" [1]. A government imposed disablement of all Internet connectivity in a certain region or localities for any period of time is what we refer to as an "Internet shutdown".

There are two key-components to this definition:

- An internet shutdown is always imposed by the government, which means that an agency of the government directs Internet Service Providers serving the locality in question to stop providing Internet services there.
- An Internet shutdown never imposes a selective restriction, which disables access to specific content or services while leaving access to other content or services intact. Instead, it always imposes a blanket ban, which disables access to the Internet as a whole [2].

India left the world behind with regard to the closure of Internet. The latest Internet shutdown is in much of Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar, Anantnag District of Kashmir, Ranchi district of Jharkhand.

In India, there were 135 internet shutdowns in 2018, 109 in 2019, and 132 in 2020, reports the website [www.internetshutdowns.in](http://www.internetshutdowns.in). India had had a similar track record the previous year. India saw a total of 101 and 60 internet shutdowns in 2021 and 2022, respectively. In last 8 years, Internet shutdowns have increased approximately by 900% (Figure 1).

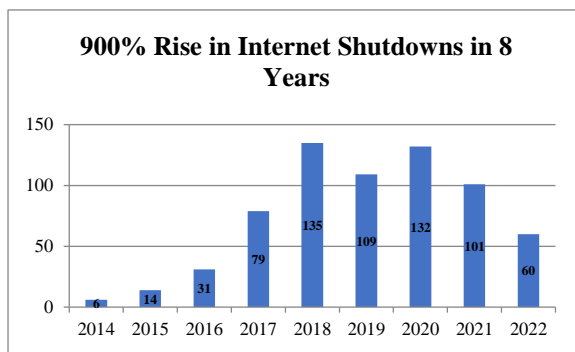


Fig.1. Rise in Internet shutdown from 2014 to 2022 in India.  
 [Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 18 July, 2022[3]]

**A. Nature of internet shutdown in India**

In total of 674 Internet shutdowns, 468 shutdowns were imposed as preventive measures i.e. in advance of an event that may require the state to suspend the Internet. Whereas 206 shutdowns were imposed as reactive measures i.e. to contain the current status of law and order that are imposed on an onset of an event (Figure 2).

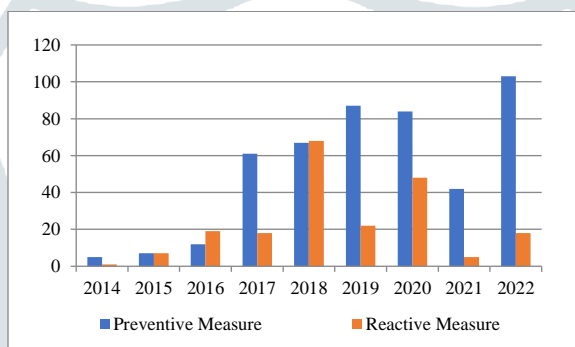


Fig.2. Nature of Internet shutdown in India  
 [Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 18 July, 2022[3]]

**B. Duration of internet shutdown in India**

From July 2014 to July 2022, out of total 674 Internet shutdowns 253 shutdowns lasted 24 hours or less, 159 shutdowns lasted between 25 to 72 hours, 50 shutdowns lasted more than 72 hours and 212 shutdowns were imposed without any information (Figure 3).

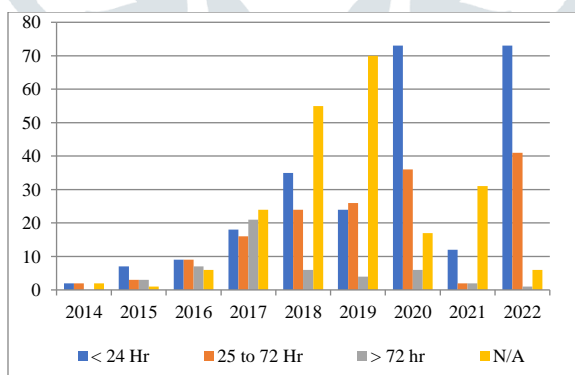


Fig.3. Duration of Internet shutdown in India  
 [Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 18 July, 2022[3]]

**C. Restrictions on services**

Out of total 674 incidents, 556 were focused on Mobile Internet service, 2 on broadband service, and 67 on the both Mobile and Broadband services, while there was no information about 49 incidents (Figure 4).

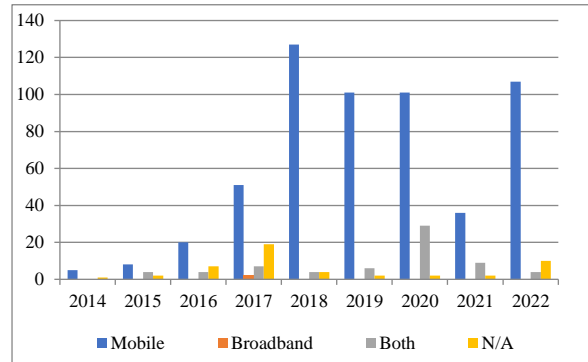


Fig.4. Types of services affected

[Source: <https://www.internetshutdowns.in/> Access on 18 July, 2022[3]]

On the forenoon of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the government of Jharkhand has issued Internet shutdown in Ranchi district on the blink of dispute all over the city. The shutdown stayed in force for 33 hours and lifted on the Morning of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022[4]. This was the first time that the people of Hill Station have been cut out from the Internet.

**II. EFFECTS OF INTERNET SHUTDOWN IN RANCHI, JHARKHAND**

In our survey, we have collected data from different Universities/Colleges of Ranchi, Jharkhand to understand in what aspect the Internet shutdown has affected most. In the survey, six (6) questions have been asked to gain the insight of situation.

1. In the scale of 1 to 5, with 1 means BAD and 5 Means EXCELLENT, rate your experience during Internet Blackout.

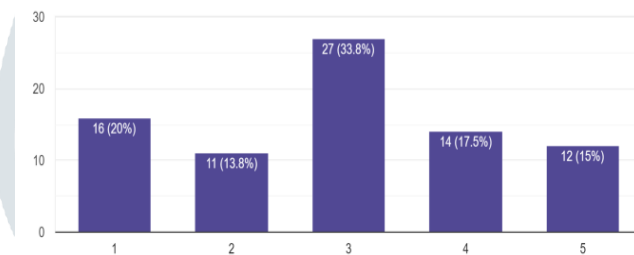


Fig.5. Scale of Internet Shutdown experience

2. How much the Internet shutdown affected your daily activities?

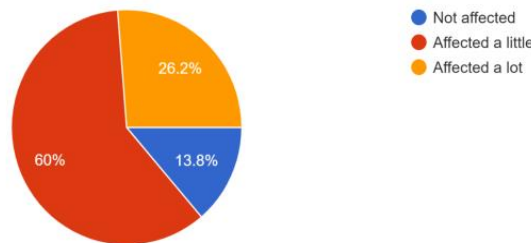


Fig.6. % Effect of Internet Shutdown in daily activities

3. In which aspects, you were affected most?

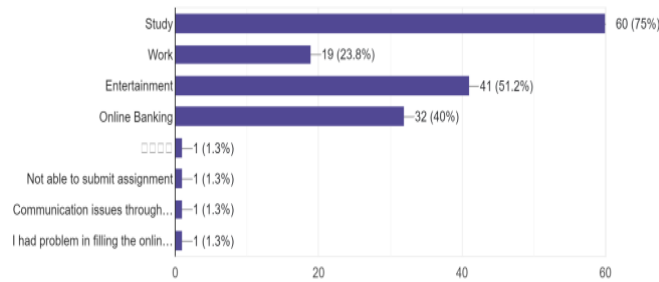


Fig.7. Area where the shutdown affects most

4. Did you feel isolated due to the Internet Blackout?

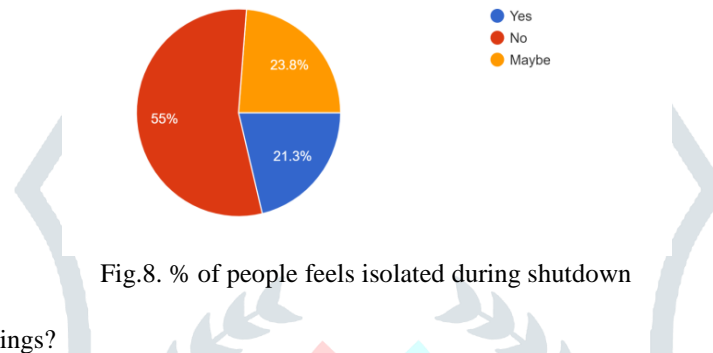


Fig.8. % of people feels isolated during shutdown

5. Did you fear missing out on things?

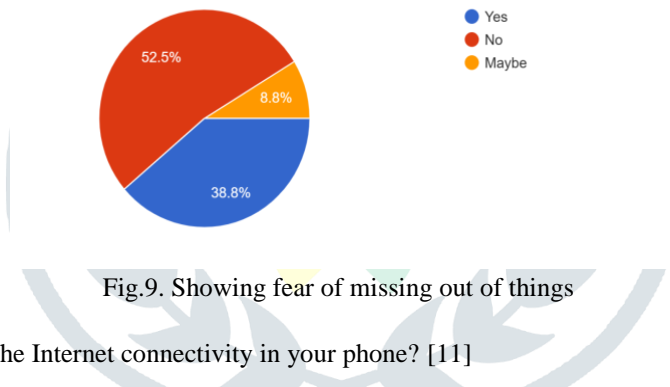


Fig.9. Showing fear of missing out of things

6. How many times did you check the Internet connectivity in your phone? [11]

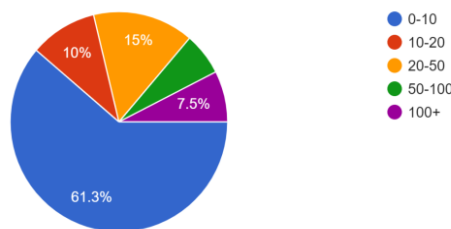


Fig.10. % of people checked for Internet Connectivity

### III. CONCLUSION

According to the data collected in our survey, everyone in the city of Ranchi was affected by the Internet Shutdown. The effect was mostly seen in the field of study, as in Question 3. Approximately 21% people were feeling isolated due to the shutdown, whereas 55% people has said that they have no effect in terms of isolation, which is a very positive attitude as a large mass does not depend on the Internet to commune with their loved ones. The major conclusion of this survey is that more than 61% people were eagerly checking for the restoration of Internet Connection (Question 6), as they have checked their phone/device for not less than 100 times during the 33 hours long Internet Shutdown. Now the question is, whether this city wide Internet Shutdown was necessary? Why the government agency wasn't be able to identify the handful of IP Addresses who were spreading fear messages on social media on time? If so, only a few carefully chosen social media platforms can be blocked for a period of three to five days. Shutting down the

Internet city wide obviously causes a lot of problems. Our government agencies, like police organization, should be equipped and trained to handle such cases. The awareness must be enhanced so that the people of Ranchi shall not fall for any anti-social messages spread across the Internet. The state Government should provide insurance to the city that the internet shutdown shall not happen in future [5-10].

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