



Use of Internet as Information Source by Graduate Students in Kalaburagi City: A Survey

Dr. Pratibha

Librarian (Sr)

Government Degree College
MadanaHipparaga, Tal: Aland,
Dist: Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Abstract:

In this present era there is increase in internet habits among students studying in graduate level courses. There is also emphasis in e-learning. Consequently, all the students are searching internet and some of them are addicted to internet, which has resulted in decrease in reading habits. On the other hand, internet has helped these students to learn more in various subject areas. Hence, a survey of 600 students pursuing the graduation in two selected Government degree colleges has been made using questionnaire. It is found that, students are experts in internet searching. Of course, many of them are using internet for academic knowledge, but some of them are also using the same for entertainment and social networking, which has reduced their reading and studying habits. Hence, parental and teachers' guidance is essential in internet habits of graduate level students.

Keywords: *Internet, Reading Habits, Graduate Students, Kalaburagi City.*

Introduction:

The internet and computer are providing many facilities at home and work place. For instance- e-banking, e-tickets, e-books, e-mails are the most general facilities of internet. One can share his experiences and thoughts with the entire world through blogs, wikis and websites. Besides job hunting and hiring employees it is also possible through public portals like naukri.com, UPSC portal, monster.com, latest vacancy, sarkarinaukri etc (Bruce Grit, 2002).

The internet is a valuable resource for students. It is full of information and can be used by students to get for ideas for projects and assignments. There are over fifty million websites available on World Wide Web that is loaded with useful information Pew Internet & American Life Project says that 87% of US teens aged 12-17 now use the internet. Thus, internet as become popular among youth. In India as well most educational institutes provide internet access to their students (Tandon and Garg, 2013).

Internet and Digital Communication Technology (DCT) has created an enormous opportunity for people of all ages including student community to contribute and accumulate information. People are getting connected to each other through emails, chat rooms, social media platforms like Face book, Twitter etc, blogs etc. Internet and DCT also make it possible for users to avail online banking, shopping as well as e-library facilities. While in the US and Europe, college students avail the internet and DCT to the maximum to acquire and share information (Rotszein, 2003), in India, the popularity of this medium among the college students has somewhat been restricted to connecting with friends, relatives and searching for higher education institutions. India now boasts of almost highest rate of users of DCT and internet including popular social media (NDTV, 2013).

Rotszein (2003) pointed out that the college students are more privileged than the school students when it comes to internet usage as the higher educational institutes may offer emails for the students. The students may also possess advanced knowledge about the usage of the computer and internet. But this may have positive as well as negative effects as college students may face problem internet use, including internet addiction, serious health related problems due to this etc. The study also showed that men preferred to stay online and avoid family gatherings and parties. The study further showed that women recognized behavioural problems and attempted to stop internet usage than men.

It is generalized from the above discussion that, internet has both advantages and disadvantages for students especially studying in higher education. Now, the students of higher education are highly using internet to get reading materials, lecture notes, e-books, etc for their studies. In this context, the present study focused the use of internet as information source by students pursuing their graduate level course in Kalaburagi city of Karnataka.

Objectives of the Study:

- To know the internet searching habits of graduate students in Kalaburagi city of Karnataka state.
- To study the impact of internet on reading habits of degree students.
- To analyze whether there is decrease in reading habits of graduate level students due to impact of internet habits.

Methodology and Limitations:

As discussed above, the study is made in Kalaburagi city, which is located in Kalyan Karnataka region of Karnataka state. The author has selected two Government degree colleges in the city and collected primary data from selected 600 students pursuing graduate level education in Arts, Commerce and Science using questionnaire in Kannada and English. The collected primary data has been analyzed, interpreted and discussed as under.

Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion:

For searching internet, the knowledge based on age is essential. The students of less than 18 years are minors and they may have lesser knowledge about usefulness of internet and they may search internet for entertainment. The students of more than 18 years are using the internet for getting academic knowledge and for communication. Hence, age is an important factor while using the internet and the collected primary data on age of the students surveyed is shown as under.

Table No. 1. Age Group of the Students

Age Group	No's of Students	Percentage
Less than 18 Years	32	5.33
18-19 Years	318	53.00
20-21 Years	226	37.67
More than 21 Years	24	4.00
Total	600	100

Age Group of all the students covered under the study revealed that, 318 (53.00%) of these students are in the age group of 18 to 19 years followed by, 226 (37.67%) are of the age group between 20-21 years, 32 (5.33%) are of less than 18 years and the remaining 24 (4.00%) are of more than 21 years respectively.

It is found that, all the students surveyed are experts in searching internet and information was collected from these students on the level of expertise in searching internet and presented in the following table.

Table No. 2. Expertise on Internet Searching

Expertise on Internet Searching	No's of Students	Percentage
Fully Expert	236	39.33
Moderate	197	32.83
Learner	115	19.16
Search with Guidance	52	8.66
Total	600	100

On the expertise of the students in internet searching, it is found that, 236 (39.33%) are fully experts in searching internet, 197 (32.83%) are moderate searchers in internet, 115 (19.16%) are learners in internet searching and 52 (8.66%) are searching internet with the help and guidance from others.

Internet has become wider usage among teenage students especially in cities. The students of more than 18 years of age are highly experts in use of internet. As such, they are using internet daily or once in two days. The frequency of usage of internet by students surveyed is disclosed as under.

Table No. 3. Frequency of Internet Usage

Frequency of Internet Usage	No's of Students	Percentage
Daily	373	62.17
Weekly	166	27.67
Monthly	23	3.83
Occasionally	38	6.33
Total	600	100

Of the total students surveyed, 373 (62.17%) are using internet daily, 166 (27.67%) are using internet weekly, 23 (3.83%) are using internet monthly and 38 (6.33%) are using internet occasionally.

The use of internet communication include many applications such as e-mail, file sharing, interaction through social networking sites, text queries and solving problems through sharing, etc. In this respect, it was asked to the students that, which of the communication utility is used by the respondents for communication and collected primary data are shown as under.

Table No. 4. Communication Utilities of Internet

Communication Utilities of Internet	No's of Students	Percentage
Share Personal Files with Friends & Relatives	251	41.83
Text Queries & Academic Problem Solving	157	26.16
Help in Co-Scholastic Areas	229	38.16
Extending Friendship across the Area	223	37.16
Total	600	100

Among all the students on the communication tools and utilities used, 251 (41.83%) are using internet to share personal files with friends and relatives, 157 (26.16%) are using internet to share text queries and academic problem solving, 229 (38.16%) are using internet to get help in co-scholastic areas and 223 (37.16%) are using internet to extend friendship across the area.

The present study is based on students, who are studying at different classes and they need help in terms of teaching assistance, guidance, learning materials, text books, etc. Hence, it was asked to the students that how the internet is helpful for their studies and the collected information is presented in the following table.

Table No. 5. Helpfulness of Internet in Academic Studies

Helpfulness of Internet in Academic Studies	No's of Students	Percentage
Provide Answers to All Questions	250	41.66
Help to Learn More in Subjects	64	10.66
Interactions with Friends & Teachers helps to solve Academic Problems	95	15.83
e-resources Helps in Curriculum Requirements	191	31.83
Total	600	100

On the helpfulness of internet in academic activities of the students surveyed, 250 (41.66%) have felt that internet provide answers to all academic problems and questions, 64 (10.66%) have agreed that internet help to learn more in subjects, 95 (15.83%) have agreed that interactions through internet with friends and teachers helps to solve the academic problems and 191 (31.83%) have mentioned that internet provides e-resources that helps in curriculum requirements.

Use of internet for academic studies is also depending on the psychology of students. Many of the students search for readymade answers to academic questions or searches for lecture notes or study materials, few of them interact with friends and relatives regarding the questions and queries related to academic studies and so on. In this respect, use of internet for academic studies as stated by the students is tabulated as under.

Table No. 6. Use of Internet for Academic Studies

Use of Internet for Academic Studies	No's of Students	Percentage
Answers to Text Questions	441	73.50
More Knowledge on Curriculum	22	3.66
Latest Developments in Text	42	7.00
Communication with Experts & Students	95	15.83
Total	600	100

As stated by all the students on the use of internet for academic studies, 441 (73.50%) are getting answers to their text questions from internet, 22 (3.66%) are getting more knowledge on their curriculum from internet, 42 (7.00%) are getting knowledge on latest developments in their text from internet and 95 (15.83%) are communicating with experts and students regarding their academic problems.

The media and forms of documents accessed and searched by the students are different. It includes text books, reference books, lecture notes, study materials, news items, guidance from experts, online lectures, etc. In this respect, the forms of documents accessed and used by the students from internet for their studies are disclosed as under.

Table No. 7. Study Materials Accessed and Used

Study Materials Accessed & Used	No's of Students	Percentage
Lecture Notes	99	16.50
Answers/ Short Notes	389	64.83
Lecture Videos	56	9.33
Expert Online Guidance	56	9.33
Total	600	100

On the study materials and lecture notes accessed and used by the students, 99 (16.50%) are accessing and using only lecture notes, 389 (64.83%) are using answers and short notes, 56 (9.33%) are accessing and using lecture videos and the remaining 56 (9.33%) are using expert online guidance respectively.

It is felt by the few of the students that internet has made their studies easier and even few of the respondents has felt that internet made the present life competitive. In this regard, the collected primary data is as under.

Table No. 8. Impact of Internet on Education

Impact of Internet on Education	No's of Students	Percentage
Made Easy	319	53.16
Made Competitive	106	17.66
Additional Learning Burden	63	10.50
More/ Updated Knowledge	112	18.66
Total	600	100

On the impact of internet on education, among all the students, 319 (53.16%) have expressed that internet made education easier, 106 (17.66%) have agreed that internet has made present education competitive, 63 (10.50%) have stated that internet has created additional learning burden and 112 (18.66%) have opined that there is more and updated knowledge available from internet.

Due to impact of internet, there is reduction of reading habits among students as they are busy in just reference through required text accessed through internet. Consequently, the detailed study habits of the students have been considerably reduced and there is increase in just reference habits through internet. The collected primary data in this regard is tabulated as under.

Table No. 9. Impact of Internet Usage on Reading Habits/ Studying

Impact of Internet Usage on Reading Habits	No's of Students	Percentage
Reading/ Studying Reduced	147	24.50
Increased Studying/ Reading	37	6.16
Neither Decrease Nor Increase	278	46.33
Shortcut to Studying is Found	138	23.00
Total	600	100

The impact of internet usage on reading and studying habits, as stated by students surveyed, 278 (46.33%) have expressed that there is neither increase nor decrease in reading and studying habits due to impact of internet followed by, 147 (24.50%) have agreed that there is reduction in reading and studying due to impact of internet, 138 (23.00%) have found shortcut to studying and reading due to impact of internet and 37 (6.16%) have felt that there increased reading and studying habits among students due to impact of internet.

Suggestions from the Study:

In graduate level of education, reading and studying is essentially needed for the students. Of course, internet is disseminating and spreading knowledge among all people including students, but reading and studying books and journals is important as they give deep knowledge on the subject and curriculum. Further, reading is pleasure which increase in thorough knowledge of all the students. Some of the studies have already proved that, increase in usage of internet has reduced reading and studying habits among students. Using internet for everything is bad habit that is increasing among students. Hence, it is suggested to the teachers and parents of the students to encourage printed books and journals for their academic and educational studies and reduce their internet habits.

Conclusion:

Internet has increased knowledge in society and it has also helped students to gain knowledge about their curriculum and extra-curricular studies. Still, internet has bad effects such as increased usage make addiction, ophthalmologic problems, fatigue, dependence on internet for everything, cyber-bullying, lack of internet in academic studies and so on. Hence, limited use of internet is needed for students rather than too much dependence on internet. In this context, it is essentially needed on the part of teachers and students to guide the students in limited and ideal use of internet and also maintain vigilance on their online activities so as to eliminate bad effects of internet and increase in reading habits of such students.

References:

1. Bruce Grit (2002): The Black Nationalist Writings of John Edward Bruce, Seralie: William, 2002.
2. NDTV (March 21, 2013). Math favors Indians and I am a mathematician: Google chief.<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/mathfavours-india-and-i-m-a-mathematician-google-chief-345403>.
3. Rotszein, B. (2003): Problem Internet use and locus of control among college students: Preliminary findings. Poster presentation at The 35th Annual Conference of the New England Educational Research Organization, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, April 10, 2003. <http://www.brianrotsztein.com/downloads/internetresearch.pdf>.
4. Tandon, Abhas and Garg, Milind (2013): Mobile Phone and Internet Adoption and Consumption Patterns of College Students in India. **Elixir Marketing Management**. Vol. 55. 2013. P. 12754-12759.

