Insights and Understanding of Internet using among PG Students: A Study in the Department of Economics, Gulbarga University Kalabuargi, India

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Abstract

Understanding the use of internet among post graduation and research scholars in the Department of Economics department Gulbarga University Karnataka. The major objectives of the study are to study the use of internet among backward region university students particularly in university library and to seek the information about competence in computer and use of internet. The present study is purely based on primary sources of data, for this purpose, research made interview schedule and distributed to randomly all PG students and selected Research scholars in department of economics Gulbarga University Karnataka. Total 250 questionnaires were distributed out of which 200 duly filled and returned. The questionnaire was framed in a simple manner to obtaining information from students to bring out the insights and understanding of the use of internet, which switched into computer literacy. Majority of the students are females, there is less knowledge about computer literacy with students in the Department of economics and universities. There should be promoted computer literacy use among PG and research scholar. This study will be very useful to society particularly to information society because majority of the rural background students' computer literacy was very low, for those types of students, the university understands to promote use of internet facilities in especially for lack of internet knowledge and economically backward students in Indian Universities to enable access of internet to the students to support the learning and research activities.

Keywords: Computer Literacy, Internet, Access.

Introduction

Today is the emerging ear of ICT (information and Communication Technology) which is useful to society as well as human being also. The use of internet has become more popular to use electronic information sources and service in academic environment all over the world both academic staff and students similar to support their teaching and learning research[1]. But the underdeveloped nations not well developed because lack of ICT facilities particularly in India, all most all countries says India is moving to digital era but ICT facilities which are lesser than other developed countries. But some extent it is being improved to other nations in Asian parlance. The use of the Internet for teaching and learning purposes has been received.

Attention over the recent years. Mitra and Steffensmeier[2] concluded that a networked learning institution where students have easy access to computers could foster positive attitudes toward the use of computers in learning. They found that a computer-enriched learning environment positively which correlated with students' attitudes toward computers in general, and the role of computers in learning. Liu, Macmillan, and Timmons[3] perceived integrating computers into a learning system as a complex instructional system in which student learning is impacted by lecturers, students, administrative and technical staff, computer hardware and software resources, and the computer laboratory and classroom settings[4]. They reported that students' with positive attitudes toward using computers also have positive attitudes toward using computers for their learning[5].

The internet has broken down barriers of communication access from anywhere in the world. It is fast, reliable and does not have restrictions on content or format (except in certain countries). It also has a limitless range of facilities which assist users to access the almost infinite information on the net. It has changed the nature of publishing. The internet offers the opportunity to access up-to-date research reports and knowledge globally in topics as diverse as science and technology, business and finance, music and the arts. Thus, it has become an important component of electronic services in academic institutions and thereby an invaluable tool for learning and research.

Global Context to India: The picture concerned to internet user shows around the globe, Asian countries are using large internet connection for example 48 percent of the Asian counties population are using internet, American accounts 21 percent, Europe accounts in 19 percent, 9.8 percent, Africa people and barely 0.9 percent Oceania people using internet services. The use of internet has present days become very popular and necessary element in academic institutions.

The internet user in India is growing tremendously in recent years in 1998 out of total population 1095 million internet users are 1.4 million users' penetration of 0.10 percent and it rose by 3.70 penetration percent of 1130 population of 42.0 million internet users in 2007(IWS)[6].

As of 2014, India was the third-largest online market with more than 198 million internet users, ranked only behind China and the United States and declaring itself as a market not to be ignored on the global stage. Furthermore, men dominated internet usage with 61 percent compare to women's 39 percent.

On an average daily online usage in the country amounted to 5.1 hours among internet users. Internet access was 49 percent among age 18-24 age group, with 28 percent of the users being in the 25-39 year age groups. The professional/corporate segment accounted for 43 percent of the Indian internet user. The student community fallowed them at 38 percent[7].

Particularly students from India 91 percent are able to access the internet for collecting information about colleges and courses with placements, availability of course, location and budget being the most important factors[8]. India is not far off from America where[9] 96 percent of the students use the Internet to search for educational content[10,11].

Further even if students learn about education institutions from other sources, 71 percent[12] come back to the Internet after learning about the institution and 46 percent of the students had first heard of their eventual institution on the Internet[13,14].

Methodology

The study has adopted the survey method to investigate the insights and understanding of internet using among PG and Research scholar belonging to urban and rural backgrounds to search for requisite information in a university library system.

The major data collection instrument used for the study was a questionnaire; however, observations and interview method were also used whenever required to supplement the data in order to make the information clearer.

The questionnaire was distributed among 250 students, out of which 200 returned the filled-in questionnaires, constituting a response rate of 80 percent and the sampling technique utilized was the proportionate simple random sampling method.

The data collected was analysed with the aid of SPSS statistical software. One sample t test was administered to identify the students understanding to use of internet, and a level of statistical significance (p) of less than 0.05 was used.

Results and Discussion

The use of internet among PG Students and Research Scholars in the study area discussed as bellow table analysis.

Table-1
Basic Details of Students

Details	Frequency	Percent
A. Gender		
Male	77	38.5
Female	123	61.5
B. Education Details		
IInd Sem	73	36.5
IVth Sem	74	37.0
Ph.D	53	26.5
C. Age		
21-23	75	37.5
24-26	103	51.5
31- 35	22	11.0

The above table discusses the basic details of students in the study area. About 38.5 percent of the students are females and rest of the 38.5 percent are males, like that 37 percent of the students are studying 4th semester, 36.5 percent students are 2nd semester students and remaining 26.5 percent scholars are doing research in economics department. However, the age concerned that, 51.5 percent of the students are 24 to26 age groups, 37.5 percent are come from 21to23 age groups and only 11 percent of the students' age between 31to35.

Table-2
Awareness of the internet offered by the University Library

Details	Frequency	Percent
Yes	200	100
Total	**100**	**100.0**

In this university 100 percent of the students are aware about internet facility offered by Gulbarga university library. One of the important thing is in India all universities are having internet facilities to access the students.

The Table-3 discusses that access of learning internet in the study area. Researcher collected responses from the students. About 48 percent of the students learning of access intent by

self only, 32.5 percent are learnt from library orientation programme, 9 percent are leant from by others, 7 percent are learnt from library staff in the university and only 3.5 percent of the student accessed with the help of senior student's in the study area. One of the important things is the majority of the students learning to access from library orientation programme because in Gulbarga University annually conducting orientation classes to PG students and research scholars, how to access the intent and how to access the resources from internet. Further in library has good internet facility with Wi-Fi connection and it reserved one internet access room i.e., VLRC Lab.

Table-3
Access of learning internet

Details	Frequency	Percent
Senior student's	7	3.5
Library orientation programme	65	32.5
Library staff	14	7.0
By others	18	9.0
By self	96	48.0
Total	**200**	**100.0**

Table-4
Rating of computer skills

Details	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	12	6.0
Very good	161	80.5
Not sure	13	6.5
Poor	6	3.0
Very poor	8	4.0
Total	**200**	**100.0**

Though Economics students have given a computer rating skill that shows in the above table, 80.5 percent of the students are rated very good internet facility, 6.5 percnt rated not sure, 6 percent viewed excellent, 3 percent said poor and 4 percent of the students expressed very poor computer skills in the study area. But majority of them have given very good computer rating skills.

Table-5
Rating of Internet Skills

Details	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	8	4.0
Very good	108	54.0
Good	84	42.0
Total	**200**	**100.0**

The above table shows that students and their views about rating of internet skills. About 54 percent of the students are giving very good rating, 42 percent of the students are saying good internet skills and only 4 percent of the students have been given excellent rating about internet skills.

Table-6
Learning To Use of Internet

Details	Frequency	Percent
In-house course offered by the university	38	19.0
In-house course offered by the library	75	37.5
Self-taught	69	34.5
From colleagues	18	9.0
Total	**200**	**100.0**

The study one of the backward region of Karnataka State, it comes under Hyderabad Karnataka Region and this university students come under very poor literacy level, large amount of the students come under very poor education level and poor economic background as well as technical background but when they come under this jolt situation the university gives free internet facility and do aware about the students community especially to rural background students and orientation programmes are conducted by Gulbarga University library to make them use of intent and motivate to have the computer literacy or computerised empowerment. In the above table is discussed students learning to use of internet. Here 34.5 percent of the respondents learning self taught, 37.5 percent of the students learning by in house course offered by the library, 19 percent are learning from in house course offered by the university and 9 percent are learning to use of intent from colleges.

The one sample t- test explains the difference between sample mean and hypothesised value here we students mean score was good in more than 3.68 percent (Table-7).

Table-7
One-Sample Statistics

Details	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Basic skills (eg typing and word processing)	200	**4.02**	1.015	.072
Using search engines	200	**4.01**	.743	.053
Using information gateways	200	3.57	.883	.062
Evaluating Websites for relevance	200	**3.68**	1.215	.086
Web navigation	200	3.29	1.049	.074
Browsing	200	3.98	.743	.053
Downloading and saving information	200	**3.89**	1.090	.077
Printing	200	**3.77**	1.193	.084
Searching for information	200	**3.96**	1.031	.073
Using search strategies	200	**3.75**	1.011	.072
Using databases	200	3.60	.930	.066

Table-8
Competence of Computer and Internet Handling Tasks

SN	Details	t Value	df	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
1	Basic skills (eg typing and word processing)	55.950	199	4.015	3.87	4.16
2	Using search engines	76.283	199	4.010	3.91	4.11
3	Using information gateways	57.203	199	3.570	3.45	3.69
4	Evaluating Websites for relevance	42.768	199	3.675	3.51	3.84
5	Web navigation	44.334	199	3.290	3.14	3.44
6	Browsing	75.733	199	3.980	3.88	4.08
7	Downloading and saving information	50.414	199	3.885	3.73	4.04
8	Printing	44.675	199	3.770	3.60	3.94
9	Searching for information	54.300	199	3.960	3.82	4.10
10	Using search strategies	52.443	199	3.750	3.61	3.89
11	Using databases	54.762	199	3.600	3.47	3.73

Note: * indicates significance at Sig (2-tailed) % level.

The Table-8 results one way independent sample t-test results displayed the results of Competence of Computer and Internet Handling Tasks of PG students and research scholars in the study area. The highest mean scores explain to understand the use of access the internet among students in the Department of Economics.

Conclusion

Today, we stand on the brink of a revolution in ICT[15], a breakthrough as profound as anything we have experienced before. This sort of research is in its beginning and is very much needed in order to direct PG students and research scholars to an efficient use of the network[16,17]. Such research can help in the development of new services and new training programs that will assist research scholars to become more productive Internet users[18]. Further learning and research is also needed to determine the effects of network use in research and access of information[19]. The results of this survey and others also point to the need for more research on the best way to teach to students and research scholars about Internet services[20].

Acknowledgement

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