

**Impact of Internet on the Development of Knowledge and Application
Skills among the College Students**

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ABSTRACT

Internet is one of the major tools of interactive communication in modern society. Interactivity has become a key term for number of new media use options evolving from the rapid dissemination of Internet access point, the digitalization of the media and media convergence. Many researchers have studied the role of Internet in modern society which has brought about connectedness. The present study evaluates the impact of internet on the development of knowledge and application skills among the university students with special reference to Tamil Nadu State.

Keywords: Internet, Knowledge, Skills, College Students

1.1. Introduction

The advent of new information and communication technologies has translated the dream of 'global village' into a reality. The new communication and information technologies have brought about the death of distance and facilitated meaningful interactive cum participatory communication all over the world. The emergence of Internet replaced the one to many model of traditional mass communication with the possibility of many to many web of communication. Internet is also one of the major tools of interactive communication in modern society. Interactivity has become a key term for number of new media use options evolving from the rapid dissemination of Internet access point, the digitalization of the media and media convergence. Many researchers have studied the role of Internet in modern society which has brought about connectedness. The present study evaluates the impact of internet on

the development of knowledge and application skills among the university students with special reference to Tamil Nadu State.

1.2 Utility of Internet in Modern Society

As of now, many people log on the web and search for information instead of going to the newspaper or television to get information. As the number of people who use the Internet is growing, most people now accept that Internet as a revolutionary new medium that has changed the life styles remarkably. Interaction with other users is another feature of the internet. Opinions and views flow freely on the web. Even though television viewers can watch television actively by means of choosing a channel, television watching is still a passive activity when compared to internet use. Internet has proved to be one of the most innovative inventions for the mankind. It has made its presence felt in every sphere of human life, be it economy, society, health care, spirituality, etc.

1.3 Nature and Scope of the Study

The research would generate tips and ideas for how to get the most value from the Internet as an information source. The study would help in maximizing the benefits of Internet and produce a whole new level of effectiveness for college students. The study would generate knowledge on the exposure, access of Internet and improvement of application skills among college students of Tamil Nadu State.

The study would bring new ways of utilization of information services through Internet among the college students of Tamil Nadu State. The study would enable knowledge workers to classify the contents of Internet. The study would find newer ways to present Internet for students use. The study would find out how Internet could be better manipulated in favour of increasing the learning environment. The study has the scope to form appropriate recommendations to bring the most advanced technology to support college level education considering the global phenomena as well as the local needs.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

With the impact of internet on the development of knowledge and application skills framework and approaches of Tamil Nadu state being the thrust area, the research proposes to:

- To find the impact of internet on the development of knowledge among the college students.

- To analyse the impact of internet on the development of application skill among the college students.

Hypotheses of the Study

H1. Student's attitude towards Internet browsing in developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu State.

H2. The Internet exposure has created new awareness among the students in the developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu State about their role in the overall development of college students.

H3. The college students in the developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu State differ in regard to prioritizing the Internet contents.

H4. The Internet exposure has enabled the college students of developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu State to gain multi-faceted advantages for their development.

Sample of the study

For the present study a sample of 150 college students were selected from two districts (Ramanathapuram and Madurai) of Tamil Nadu state. The investigator developed a tool to find out the impact of internet on the development of knowledge and application skills among College Students.

Locale of the Study

The study was carried out in four colleges in Ramanathapuram and also in Madurai in Tamilnadu, which represent the overall social, cultural, educational and economic scenario. There were more Rural centered respondents in the sample since the Internet use is found more in the urban areas rather than semi-urban areas.

Research Design

In order to identify the impact of internet on the development of knowledge and application skills among the college students, the investigator has administered descriptive survey method for present investigation.

Tools of Data Collection

In the present study survey method were used as the principal tools of data collection by the researcher. Two set of interview schedules were developed for the purpose of collection of primary data from the students regarding the Internet exposure, accessibility of the Internet, uses of Internet and developments held through Internet from the college students' point of view in Tamilnadu State.

ANALYSIS

Distribution of data with frequency and percentage in relation to Gender

S.No	Demographic variable Gender	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	Male	40	26.7
2	Female	110	73.3

The table reveals the information about the strength from two different zones comprising of 73.3% women and 26.7 % of men students.

Distribution of data with Frequencies and percentage in relation to age of the students

S.No	Demographic variable Age (Yrs)	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	17-25	127	84.7
2	26-30	23	15.3
3	Above 30	0	0

The above table reveals that 84.7 % students aged (17 to 25); 15.3% students aged (26 to 30).

Distribution of data with frequencies and percentage in relation to locality of students

S.No	Demographic variable locality of students	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	Rural	98	65.3
2	Urban	52	34.7

Around 65.3 % of students are from rural areas whereas 34.7 % from urban area.

Distribution of data with frequencies and percentage in relation to Area of students

S.No	Demographic variable Area of students	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	Ramanathapuram	100	66.7
2	Madurai	50	33.3

Around 66.7 % of students are from Ramanathapuram, whereas 33.3 % from Madurai.

Use of Internet**Distribution of data with frequency and percentage in relation to Internet studies**

S.No	Demographic variable Internet studies	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	Agreed	119	79.3
2	Moderately agree	30	20.0
3	Disagreed	1	.7

The data reveals that 79.3% students agreed the question, 20.0% students moderately agreed it and 0.7% students disagreed it.

Distribution of data with frequency and percentage in relation to Internet for information

S.No	Demographic variable Internet for information	Frequencies (N=150)	Percentage (100%)
1	Agreed	112	74.7
2	Moderately	32	21.3
3	Disagreed	6	4.0

The data reveals that 74.7 % students agreed the question, whereas 21.3% students moderately agreed it and 4.0% students disagreed it.

Internet Use Pattern	Agreed	Moderately Agreed	Disagreed
Internet studies	79.3%	20.0%	0.7%
Internet for information	74.7 %	21.3%	4.0%
Internet is a part of my daily life	58.0%	34.7%	7.3%
Interpersonal relations	57.3%	28.0%	14.7 %
Use internet to interact	66.0%	20.0%	14%
Enables new things to know	82.7%	16.0%	1.3 %
Good networking	66.7%	26.0%	7.3 %
Impact of computer literacy	76.7%	16.7%	6.7 %

Internet Use Pattern for the Development of Knowledge	Agreed	Moderately Agreed	Disagreed
Development of academic	82.0%	17.3%	0.7 %
Enhances the needed knowledge	71.3%	24.7%	4.0 %
Personality development	67.3%	28.0%	4.7 %
Enhances the academic competence	70.0%	18.7%	11.73%
Communication skill development	80.0%	16.7%	3.3 %
Creativity development	70.7%	22.0%	7.3 %
Learn what is going on in the world	75.3%	21.3%	3.3 %
Find out things which I need to know	62.7%	24.7%	12.7 %
Preparation for seminars\ assignments\ researches	80.0%	19.3%	0.7 %
Professional development	71.3%	26.7%	2.0%
Impact in learning of education	77.3%	20.0%	2.7 %
Academic problem solvation	70.7%	27.3%	2.0%
World Wide Web	78.7%	18.0%	3.3%

Internet Use Pattern for the Development of Application Skills	Agreed	Moderately Agreed	Disagreed
Web application learning	78.7%	18.0%	3.3%
Make computer usage familiar	64.7%	25.3%	10.0%
Online job hunting \ banking \ e-commerce activities	72.0%	19.3%	8.7 %
Gain application skills	81.3%	14.7%	4.0 %
Online tests\ send online application forms practices	76.7 %	19.3%	4.0 %
Open source software offer compelling benefits	70.0%	23.3%	6.7 %
Electronic / digital curricular content	66.7%	25.3%	8.0 %
Skill of multimedia usage	74.0%	22.0%	4.0 %
Public space for social activities	87.3 %	10.7%	2.0 %

The findings to Information about impact of Internet:

- It was found that 72.0% of students use the Internet for online job hunting/ banking/ e-commerce activities.
- It was found that 74.7 % of students use the Internet to look for information.
- It was found that 58.0% of students use the Internet because it is a habit, Use the Internet because it is part of daily routine, the Internet to learn what is going on in the world and in the neighbourhood, Use the Internet to find out things I need to know in my daily life, use the Internet because it enabled me to become familiar in computer use, Use the Internet to learn many web applications and use the Internet to look for products/ services at bargain prices.
- It was found that 76.7 % of students found that Internet enabled to practice online tests/ send online application forms to colleges and universities, so as to gain control of information technology.

Limitations of the Study

The following are the limitations of the study:

- The respondent of the study is limited to three colleges only.

- The present assessment of the Impact of internet on (Syed ammal arts and Science College and Govt. Women's arts college Students, Ramanathapuram) and Senthamarai College of arts and science, Madurai is limited to Ramanathapuram and Madurai Districts of Tamil Nadu only.
- The investigator made research tool is used finding out the opinion of the students.

Conclusion

The findings reveal that the respondents are fully aware of the role of Internet in modern society. The findings of this study highlight the fact that the information age has brought about change which had an impact on the students' use of the internet. Network skills and digital information literacy have become critical skills for the students, who need to be discriminative readers and competent information evaluators in order to succeed in their academic and research activities.

The present investigation clearly emphasized that college students in Tamil Nadu have expressed that they enjoyed adequate developments through Internet access. As regards the uses of Internet among the college students of developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu, the study revealed that most of the respondents used the Internet for multi-purposes including academic development. Ultimately, the study underlines the personal and academic utility of information resources made available to the college students of developed and under developed regions of Tamil Nadu from integrated personality development of students' point of view.

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