

A Study on the Use of Internet among PSG Polytechnic College Students from Coimbatore, India

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Abstract

Background and Aims

Internet usage has grown rapidly among students during the last decade in almost every country in the world and in India specifically; today millions of individuals are connected to the Internet and it has become the backbone of information retrieval process. Internet carries a vast range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the world wide web (WWW), electronic mail, telephony, and information sharing. It has been a great medium for academic students to communicate and get academic and non academic related information quickly. This study has been conducted to investigate the use of internet among PSG Polytechnic College students from coimbatore using a validated questionnaire and also find the students opinion about: can internet replace library service? and provide some suggestions to increase the internet usage among the students.

Keywords

Internet, Students, Polytechnic, Coimbatore, India

I. Introduction

The Internet has become an essential component of academic students everyday activities throughout the world. The internet is made up of millions of computers linked together around the world in such a way that information can be sent from any computer to any other computer. It helps to get the information for academic and non academic purposes, communicate with others and various other features. The scenario of academic education has been changed. Now the students are well equipped with modern technology such as computers and internet. It is assumed that the engineering students in India feel more dependent on the Internet for their class assignments and project work for the latest information about their subject areas than conventional resources of information. This has given various opportunities to academic students to increase their knowledge and stay up to date with the modern world. The present study aims to investigate the use of internet facility among students from PSG Polytechnic College using a validated questionnaire.

II. Aim and Objectives

The main objective of this study is to find out the use of internet among the PSG Polytechnic College students, Coimbatore. The objective includes:

1. To find out how many hours are spent per day on internet by students.
2. To find out the most preferred location of internet access.
3. To find out which technological device is used to access the internet.
4. To find out the internet used purpose among the students.
5. To find out students how they learned the internet skills.
6. To find out how students retrieved the information from internet.
7. To find out problems faced by students while using the internet.
8. Find out the students opinion about: can internet replace library service?
9. To recommend some suggestions to increase internet usage among the students.

III. Literature Review

Rewati Limaye and Gerhard Fotwengel (2015) conducted a study on Use of Internet among Undergraduate Students from Mumbai, India. This survey revealed that the majority of the students spend 3 to 5 hours daily on the internet. Students do not only use internet for academic purpose and 40% students use internet for non academic work.

Ugwulebo Jeremiah Emeka and Okoro Sunday Nyeche (2016) conducted a study on the topic, Impact of Internet Usage on the Academic Performance of Undergraduates Students: A case study of the University of Abuja, Nigeria. They found that 45% of the students use the internet to obtain course related information and 54% of the students preferred location for internet use for their home. It showed that 56% of the students were faced with the problem of slow internet speed. This study also reveals that the internet and its services play the important role on students academic performance cannot be over emphasized, this it does through constant exposure of students to up-to-date information and relevant information in their various fields of study. The number of hours spent on the internet will have an effect on the students academic performance. It was revealed that majority of respondents access the internet every day.

Mustapha Almasi, Haruni Machumu, Chang Zhu (2017) conducted a study titled Internet Use among Secondary School Students and its Effects on their Learning. This study revealed that very few students used their personal computer (laptop) and desktop for internet use nor used the systems at their homes. The majority of the students declared that they use internet through their own smart phones. This indicates that mobile phones have become the major means by which students access the internet thus putting internet closer to students as they have their mobile virtually twenty-four hours.

IV. Materials and Methods

A total number of 100 students (50 male and 50 female) were scored using the questionnaire to determine the number of hours they spend on internet, purpose of internet use, location of internet

access, ways of browsing information on the internet, which type of technological devices are used to access the internet and also how they learnt the internet skills. A survey questionnaire was used as the tool to gather the information and data from students for the study. Data analysis was done by descriptive statistics. Percentages were determined from the quantitative data frequencies sorted out from the filled questionnaires. The data are presented in the form of tables & figures, in suitable places.

1. Limitations

The questionnaires for internet users were filled up by the students of the PSG Polytechnic College. A total sample of 100 students was taken for the present study. The period of study was february to march 2019.

2. Results

Table 1: Number of hours spent daily on internet by the students

Hours / day spent on internet	Percentage %
1 - 2 hours	60
3 - 4 hours	30
5 - 6 hours	8
Above 6 hours	2

From table 1, results gotten from the research shows that 60% of respondents spent 1 to 2 hours daily on internet, 30% use internet for 3 to 4 hours, 8% use the internet for 5 to 6 hours, and only 2% use the internet for more than 6 hours. The findings show that the maximum number of hours spent daily on internet by students is 1 to 2 hours. Based on the students regular usage of internet indicates the enthusiasm of the everyday modern youth to reach out globally.

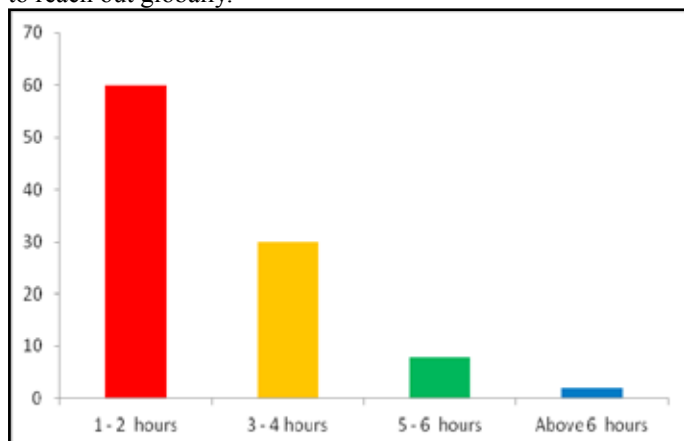


Fig.1: Number of hours spent daily on internet by the students

Table 2: Most frequently used location of internet access by the students

Location of Internet Access	Percentage %
Homes	54
College	36
Others Places	10
Internet cafes	-

Table 2 reveals that 54% of students use internet in homes, 36% of students use internet in college, 10% of students use internet in other places like hostel & free wifi connectivity available areas,

due to the availability of free internet access in the college campus and also because they have internet access on mobile networks at the minimum rate. In this reasons students are not interested to visit internet cafes.

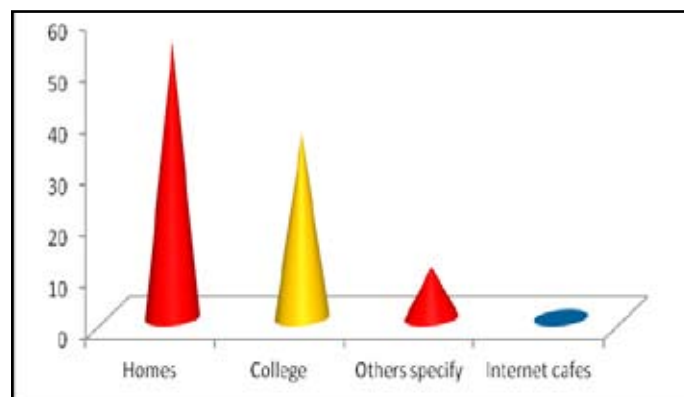


Fig. 2: Most frequently used location of internet access by the students

Table 3: Methods of learning internet skills by the Students

Method	Percentage %
Self interaction	68
Guidance from friends	14
Training from college	12
External courses	6

Table 3 presents how students learnt internet skills. The findings indicate that 68% of students learned from self interaction, 14% of students learned from guidance from friends, 12% of students learned from the training from college, only 6% of students learned from external courses. Majority of students learned the internet skills from self interaction.

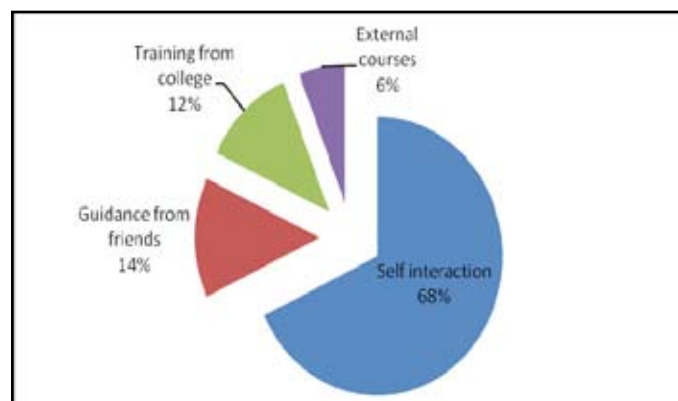


Fig. 3: Methods of learning internet skills by the Students

Table 4: Purpose of using the internet by the Students

Reason for Internet Use	Percentage %
Academic work	42
More than one reason	28
Chatting and making friends	18
Commercial purpose	8
Game	4

From table 4, 42% of the students use the internet for their academic work, 28% use the internet for more than one reason may be they use internet for academic work, chatting and making friends,

commercial purpose & game, 18% use the internet for chatting and making friends, 8% use the internet for commercial purpose, only 4% use the internet for game purpose. This finding revealed that 42% of the students use the internet to obtain academic related information.

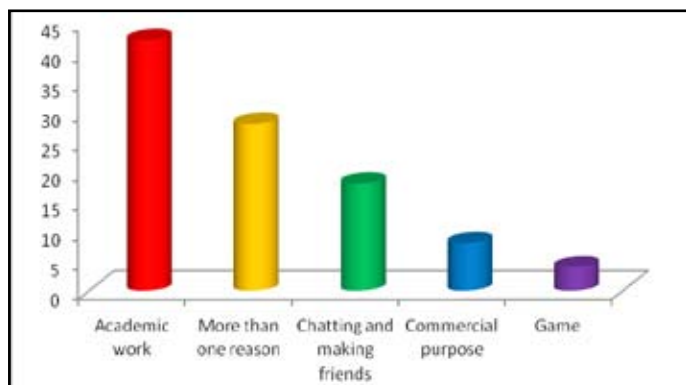


Fig. 4: Purpose of using the internet by the Students

Table 5: Technological devices used to access the internet

Device	Percentage %
Mobile / Cell Phone	76
Desktop Computer	14
Laptop	10

From table 5, the students were asked to identify which technological devices they used to access the internet. 76% of students accessed internet by mobile / cell phones, 14% of students responded that accessed the internet using desktop computers. Remaining 10% of students used laptops. The analysis reveals that the maximum students used mobile / cell phone to access the internet.

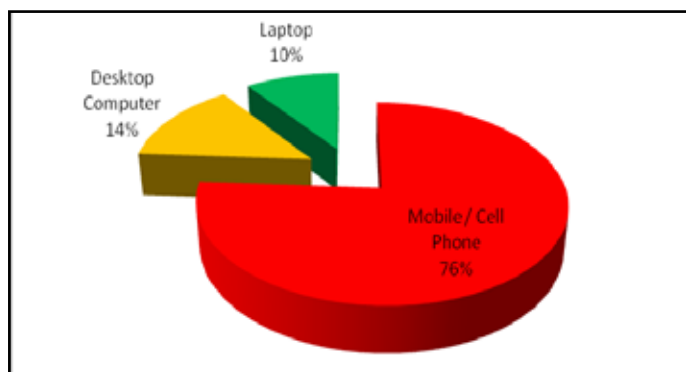


Fig. 5: Technological devices used to access the internet

Table 6: Ways to browse information from the internet

Ways	Percentage %
Use the search engines	62
Type the web address directly	38

Table 6 shows that 62% of students browse the required information from Internet by using Internet search engines and the other 38% of students admit that they type the web address directly for browsing information.

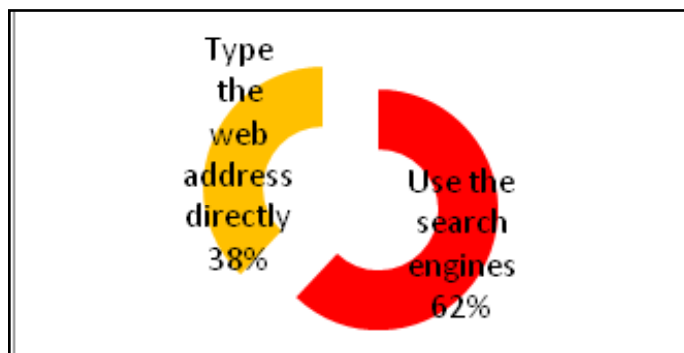


Fig. 6: Ways to browse information from the internet

Table 7: Problems faced while using the internet

Problems	Percentage %
Slow internet access	46
It take too long to view / download web page	36
Difficulty in finding relevant information	16
Lack of adequate skills	2

As shown in table 7, 46% of the students said they faced the problem of slow internet speed, 36% said they faced problem with the system taking too long time to display the web page or download files. 16% of students said they have difficulty in finding relevant information. 2% of students said they had lack of adequate internet skills. From the findings, we can reveal that the major problem faced by students was slow internet speed.

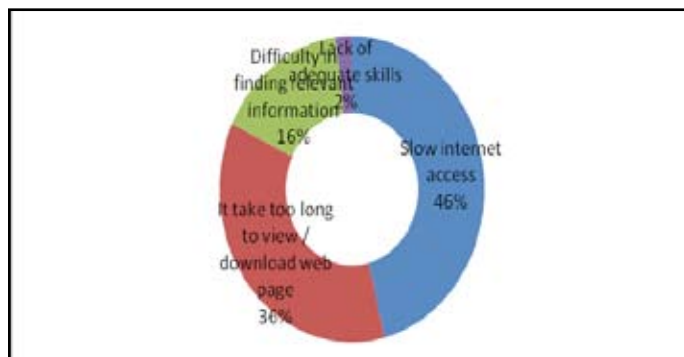


Fig. 7: Problems faced while using internet

Table 8: Can internet replace library service?

	Percentage %
No	55
Yes	45

Table 7 reveals that the majority of the students, 55% of them feel that the Internet cannot replace library services. Remaining 45% of the students feel that internet can replace library services because they find that it is easier to locate the required information in lesser time on the Internet than in the library.

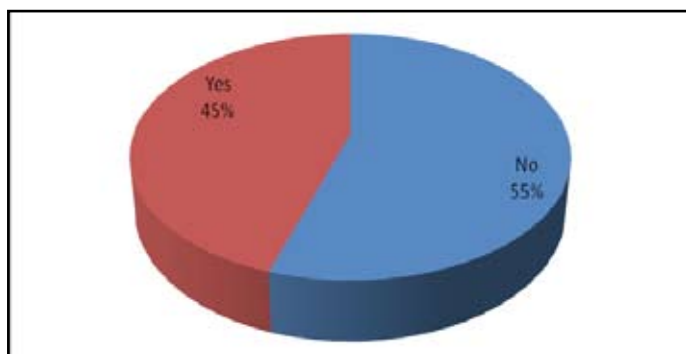


Figure 8: Can internet replace the library service?

V. Suggestions

A few suggestions are given to increase the internet usage among the students.

1. The timings of the internet service should be increased in the college campus, so that the students can make maximum use of the internet facility.
2. The latest specification and versions should be installed in the systems and also provide internet speed, it leads to students using the Internet telephony, video conferencing, chatting and the other useful services of the internet.
3. High bandwidth internet facility should be provided in the campus to overcome the problem of slow connectivity.
4. Provide internet with wifi facility in the college campus.
5. Providing printing facility in the internet facility available area can help while taking printouts of their study material and other important documents at nominal rates.
6. Technical staff / Technicians should be appointed and they should always be present in the internet section for assisting the students.
7. Sites providing only entertainment should be locked so that the students would not use them unnecessarily.
8. System administrator should restrict to unwanted websites so that the students cannot use them unnecessarily.
9. Provide Information to the students regarding the latest website addresses and their advantages may be displayed in the computer Centre notice board.
10. System administrator should increase the servers and install firewalls to protect computer systems from viruses.
11. Some orientation training programmes should be organized by the colleges at regular intervals so that the maximum users can improve their excellence or proficiency in the use of the Internet for academic purposes.

VI. Discussion and Conclusion

The study showed that more than 60% of students spend 1 to 2 hours per daily surfing on internet. The results reveal that 54% of the students most frequently used location of internet access is their home. The findings indicate that the 68% of students learnt internet skills through self interaction. For 42% of the academic students reason for surfing is academic work. 76% of students accessed the internet using mobile / cell phone. The majority of the students, 62% browse the required information by using search engines. 46% of students faced problems while having slow internet access and 55% of the students feel that internet cannot replace library services.

In the digital era, thus it is essential to orient the students on using internet for their studies for better career and life. Internet is a boon for humanity, its gives us the best hope for higher quality

education with easy accessibility and for nominal expensive. Use of internet for education has a potential to change many aspects of students lives. With time, via internet education will shine at global level, which indicates that no one should be deprived of education because of location or time inconvenience. Education domain is one of the largest contributors to internet usage. It is very useful for academic students but it's important for the students to recognize that not everything is available on the internet. However, the internet is one of the revolutions in the digital era

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