

THE USE OF INTERNET BY STUDENTS OF SARGODHA UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine the trends of using internet by the students of Sargodha University. It also examined the gender difference regarding internet usage. The sample of the data was taken from the University of Sargodha. A survey of 252 students both male and female was randomly selected to participate in the study. The result of the study showed that most of the students of Sargodha University consider internet as a tool for information. They use it for study purposes. They think that internet is an easier way to get information than library. Further, it is recommended that students should be provided with internet at their institutions and they should be given proper education regarding internet usage.

Keywords: Attitude, Gender difference, University students, Sargodha University.

INTRODUCTION

The word internet is derived from the words “global” and network. It can be defined as the world’s largest and most sophisticated and most widely used network. It has become an important part of education. It has become compulsory subject for primary education. The use of internet has enabled students to get information with others at any place and at any time. Internet has made this world like a family. We can talk and see others whenever we want. It has become a powerful resource for social interaction.

Moreover, it has made even trade very easy. Now-a-days people buy and sell things online. We can pay bills and sell or buy lands plots and many other things through internet. There are many other uses of internet for example we can use it for religious purpose. We can find solution for all the problems we find in everyday life. It is a big source of entertainment also.

The results of the study show that whenever students of university of Sargodha find opportunity to use internet resources they all prefer to use these, instead of going to the libraries and find books which is a time consuming task. Comparatively internet takes less time on giving related information than libraries. That’s why most of the students use internet to complete their projects. Now it is obvious that usage rate of internet in education is increasing day by day, because it saves time and energy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Students find the internet more informative as unpaired to other information resources. They consider it easier than written material in books. They also find it easier and effective than

teachers. Majority of students feel comfortable and satisfied with the information they find on internet (Kashif, Iqra and Nadeem 2010). Most of the students are careless about the reliability of the information available on internet. This has a bad effect on their grades students get low marks when they use more accessible and less secure internet sites in such kind of courses and projects. (Yasar, Sabah and Tuncay, 2010). In education, internet is the main facilitator. With the use of internet learning process has become constructive because learners receive information actively rather than passively. Internet helps to facilitate cooperative learning environment. In order to use internet, effectively students attitude should be positive and constructive (Abdulah, 2011). Internet has positive impacts and effects on students learning process. (Harris, 2009).

Internet is a powerful tool in education. It affects student's performance. Students who use it on a daily basis in the classroom or anywhere have excellent result than those who do not use it. Internet users are more motivated and successful than non users.(Boles 2010). Computer based learning is a new trend and it has wide range affection on all areas by using internet. Students can catch contemporary and stable knowledge with its multi functional tools (fahme and zehra 2004).

Many universities are developing their way of teaching viewing the increasing utility and importance of internet. In fact from 2003 to 2004, on line learners in America increased from 1.98 million to 2.35 million. (Allen and Seamen, 2005). Some students have computers at home. They have their personal computers. Some have computer only in their computer labs. Such radiation in accessing computer effect their learning process, and attitude towards using internet (Ahmed and Tafila, 2010). Internet is helpful in improving social as well as technological skills. It has grown from an exclusive environment and a typical communicative tool. It has become a use full tool not for students only but also for teachers. (Bell 2000).

Students consider internet based learning more effective than traditional learning. It keeps them attentive and sustains the interest in studies. (Metzger, 2003) Good performance of students in using internet encourages them to interact with other Students, Teachers. It also encourages cooperation among students and active learning process among students (Applebee 1999). A report based on 4 year research shows that 75% American are engaged with internet. In 2000 the overall time of internet users was 6.1 hour per week. In 2006 it was 12.5 (Spennemen, 2006). Internet is used at universities as an instrument to gather information. It has become first and foremost place for students to get material for their projects. (Aydes, 2001).

Internet has introduced an informal way of learning. We can find anything related to studies, entertainment, Social purposes, Religious Purposes, Trade and many other activities on internet. Students are quite competent in the access to this information. No doubt internet is creating an environment of interaction and collaboration. It is leading students away from reality instead of calling in.

METHODOLOGY

The sample size consisted of 252 participants mainly from university of Sargodha has been selected from the total population of Sargodha university. Respondents were both males and females.

The scale of 24 items was used to examine the trends of using internet by the students of Sargodha University. The Questionnaire was consisted of 5 sections 1st section was about the details of students' use of internet for study purposes. 2nd section was about the use of internet for entertainment. 3rd was about religious purposes, 4th was about social uses and last one was about other activities. Only one questionnaire was given to the participants.

In questionnaire participants were asked about their attitude towards the use of internet.

Table 1: Participants

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Male	110	43.5
Female	141	55.7

Female are more than males here. The reason is, in Sargodha university Females are more in number than males. That's why here are 141 Females and 110 are male.

RESULTS

Table 2: Use of Internet for various activities

Variable	Male		Female	
	Mean	St. dev	Mean	St. dev
Social Use	8.06	4.067	6.45	4.57
Study Purpose	9.09	3.238	7.98	3.003
Entertainment	8.79	5.239	6.67	4.012
Other Activities	8.06	4.558	6.81	4.961
Religious Purposes	8.77	5.031	7.42	4.795

Table 2 revealed that most of the students consider internet as a great source of information. They use it for study purposes. (Mean=9.09)(St 3.238) (Males) (Mean7.98)(St = 3.003) (Females).

Males use internet more than females the results are below.

Males use internet for entertainment more than girls (Mean 8.79) (St = 5.239) Males.

DISCUSSION

Human mind has a tendency to adopt new and strange developments and implications. That's why modern technology has become an integral part of human life. Internet offers more information than libraries. That's why many university consider it a vital part for getting information. They consider it an effective tool for both learning and teaching process. It helps students to communicate with their fellows as well as with their instructor. It keeps them aware of the new researches being conducting in the whole world.

Students get expert opinion also. They can get online lectures and get whatever they want to get related to anything in this world. Internet based learning is an informal type of learning. It keeps students active and interactive while learning. They receive information actively instead of passively. It helps to develop a cooperative learning environment. Internet is not limited to study

purposes. It is a biggest source of entertainment and other social uses also. It increases social interaction between people. It has shrieked the whole world into a family. Social communication through internet has been increasing frequently. There are number of social networking sites like Face Book, Twitter, and my Space etc which provide the opportunity to communicate with different people at different and distant places as well. It has been observed that students are frequent users of social networking sites than general population. Instant messaging has been increasing in students day by day. It is obvious that internet has become an integral part in everyday life of a student as well as in the life of general population.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The research was conducted to examine the trends of using internet by the students of Sargodha University. Result show that students consider it as vital source of information and knowledge. So students should provide facilities regarding internet access. They should provide labs in their institutions. Most of the students use internet for study purposes. They use it for entertainment also but those students are less in number. Now it is evident that internet helps them in their study tasks and home work projects.

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