
HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS' INTERNET USAGE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSE

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Abstract

This study examines the higher secondary students' internet usage for academic purpose. Internet can offer powerful new solutions for learning students. According to Cheung and Huang (2005) the need to access internet for academic purpose is important. Students are given meaningful and deep learning by use of internet. The investigator has taken 200 higher secondary students from 4 higher secondary schools situated in Kumbakonam taluk of Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu, India by using stratified random sampling technique. For collection of data the investigator has used internet usage for academic purpose scale constructed and validated by him and t-test has also used for analysis and interpretation data. The result of the study reveals that the higher secondary students' internet usage for academic purpose is high. The use of internet can enable new ways of thinking, learning and students to become leader and trainers who can assist their peer in using the internet in academic purpose. Thus it enhances student content interaction.

Key word: Internet, Higher secondary student, Academic use of internet.

Introduction

In the present age, many people around the world the use of internet into all aspects in their daily life particularly entertaining, shopping, business, chat with friend etc. People have started to access any kind of information easily on the internet and also use it for social, educational and communication purposes (Nazan, et al. 2011). The internet is a network of networks that connects two computers worldwide- client and server. Server computer store the information resources and client computer to access the resources. So that they can exchange and share messages with one another. As the Internet has many different functions, it is important to consider to what extent it is used by students in education for academic purposes. Yu (2001) found that, on average, university students spent 164 minutes per day on the Internet. Students are usage of internet for academic purpose such as preparing assignment, various examples of subject, additional information, model question paper, model test, seeking job, higher study of different courses and institutions etc as well as doing homework by using the internet (Lenhart, Madden & Hitlin, 2005).

The internet allows students to broaden their academic experience, access important information and communicate with others within the academic community (Tella, 2007). Internet offers high performance of academic process with internet student working to effectively acquire new skills as they solve problems. Students will be able to use internet to achieve new level of learning and to acquire new information age skills and abilities. The internet is mainly used for information transferring from the teacher to the student. (Cummings, Bonk, & Jacobs, 2002). Students felt successful in school, were motivated to learn when using internet. Thus students are given meaningful and deep learning by use of internet.

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Review of Related Studies

Betul and Feza (2010) have examined that the use of internet by high school students for educational purposes in respect to their learning approaches. In the study, 921 secondary school students were subjected, and Learning Process Questionnaire (LPQ) was used. This tool consisted of two dimension, deep learning and surface learning. According to the data obtained, surface learners use the Internet more when compared to deep learners, though they use it for non-instructional purposes. The ratios of the internet use of deep learners for educational purposes are higher when compared to those of surface learners. Ratios of the internet use for educational purposes by the students who are given assignments requiring the use of the internet are higher.

Nazan et al. (2011) investigated that the use of the internet for educational purposes. The growth of the internet in the world provides many opportunities to many people around the world in many different ways. When students are considered, the use of the internet is mainly for social and entertainment purposes. However, it is very obvious that the internet provides not only social connection and entertainment, but also academic and scientific information as well. For the reasons mentioned above, the aim of this study is look at the students' use of internet in their academic studies. The participants are around 150 English preparatory school students in Eastern Mediterranean University. These students have come from different countries in order to study at various departments in the university. They found that the majority of the students believed they can use the internet as an educational tool.

Ahmad et al. (2015) studied about use of internet for academic purposes among students in Malaysian institutions of higher education. Students in institutions of higher learning should take advantage of information available on the internet in their coursework. In this study, the durations spent on the internet for academic and non-academic purposes were investigated based on a survey on 1675 students randomly selected from five different fields of study, viz. social sciences, sciences, engineering, agriculture and computer sciences. There is no correlation was found between internet access duration and the use of the internet for academic purposes. The very low correlations encountered above, even though statistically significant, showed that students who spent more time on the internet did not make much greater use of it for academic purposes as compared with students who used the internet less.

Importance of the Study

The internet conferred students with confidence in learning. It is seen as an alternative to the teacher- directed learning environment by encouraging active learning. The internet gives simulation of real world settings as it allows students to visit those places while in class. Internet provided a rich resource of materials, while it also became an alternative source of information for students. The internet also provided up to date information for students. Use of internet in school campus and society has been increased and it becomes an important part of student life (Chou et al. 2005). The students used the internet when the teacher was busy helping other students. And also students used the internet access to information which they could not obtain from the textbook. Harlina et al. (2015) reported that high internet usage brings better academic result as students get the opportunity to enter to the information world.

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Internet gives real world setting such as museum, digital library, video conferencing, web chat discuss with subject experts etc. So students overcome his learning difficulties. The need to access internet for academic purposes is important in view of the research findings by Cheung and Huang (2005). Internet can offer powerful new solutions for learning students. Ogedebe (2012) reported that 79% of the respondents accepted their academic performance has improved by using the internet. For the reasons mentioned above the researcher has made an attempt to study the higher secondary students' internet usage for academic purpose.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives formulated by the investigators for the present investigation:

1. To study the higher secondary students' internet usage for academic purpose,
2. To study if there is any significant difference between the male and female higher secondary students in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose,
3. To study if there is any significant difference between higher secondary students school located in urban area and rural area in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose,
4. To study if there is any significant difference between higher secondary students studying in Tamil medium and English medium in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose.

Methodology

Research design- The investigator adapted normative survey method to pursue his study.

Sample and sampling technique- The sample comprises 200 higher secondary students from 4 higher secondary schools situated in Kumbakonam taluk of Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu, India. The sample was selected by stratified random sampling technique.

Tool- Internet usage for academic purpose scale constructed and validated by the investigator used for collecting the data. It included 16 items about students' daily use of the internet for academic purpose. Each item has four options, namely 'always', 'sometimes', 'rarely', 'never'. The maximum score of this scale is 64. Therefore if one who gets a score 40 and above indicates high level of internet usage for academic purpose and a score below 40 indicates low level of internet usage for academic purpose. For the present tool validity was established by taking the opinion of experts in educational technology and teachers who were active internet users across various faculty and relevant changes were made hence the tool has got content and constructs validity. Reliability value was found by crobach's alpha (0.86) and tool was reliable.

Data analysis and interpretation: The data was analysed through descriptive as well as inferential statistics. The normality of data is assessed by calculating the values of mean, median, S.D. In order to study the significant difference in internet usage for academic purpose with regard to gender, school locality and medium of instruction t-test was employed.

HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS' INTERNET USAGE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSE**Table-1 Mean and Standard Deviation of the Internet usage for Academic Purpose of the Higher Secondary Student**

| Variables | N | Mean | SD |
|--|-----|-------|------|
| Entire sample of higher secondary students | 200 | 47.36 | 8.04 |

It is evident from the table-1 the calculated mean and standard deviation of internet usage for academic purpose of entire sample of higher secondary students is found to be 47.36 and 8.04 respectively which shows that the higher secondary students have high level of internet usage for academic purpose.

Table-2 Significance of the Difference between the Means of the Internet usage for Academic Purpose Scores based on Gender

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | 't' Value | Significance at 0.05 level |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------|------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Male higher secondary student | 80 | 45.80 | 7.98 | 2.26 | Significant |
| Female higher secondary student | 120 | 48.40 | 7.94 | | |

It is evident from table-2 the calculated 't' value is 2.26, which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is inferred that there is a significant difference between male and female higher secondary students with respect to their internet usage for academic purpose.

Table-3 Significance of the Difference between the Means of the Internet usage for Academic Purpose Scores Based on School Locality

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | 't' Value | Significance at 0.05 level |
|--|-----|-------|------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Higher secondary student studying in urban area school | 135 | 46.28 | 8.40 | 2.97 | Significant |
| Higher secondary student studying in rural area school | 65 | 49.58 | 6.78 | | |

It is evident from table-3 the calculated 't' value is 2.97, which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is inferred that there is a significant difference between higher secondary students school located in urban area and rural area with respect to their internet usage for academic purpose.

HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS' INTERNET USAGE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSE**Table-4 Significance of the Difference between the Means of the Internet usage for Academic Purpose Scores based on Medium of Instruction**

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | 't' Value | Significance at 0.05 level |
|---|-----|-------|------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Higher secondary student studying in Tamil medium | 92 | 45.50 | 8.75 | 3.03 | Significant |
| Higher secondary student studying in English medium | 108 | 48.94 | 7.04 | | |

It is evident from table-4 the calculated 't' value is 3.03, which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is inferred that there is a significant difference between higher secondary students studying in Tamil medium and English medium with respect to their internet usage for academic purpose.

Important Findings

The following are the important findings obtained from the present investigation:

1. The entire samples of the higher secondary students have high level of internet usage for academic purpose. This trend is seen in respect of the sub-samples, too.
2. There is a significant difference in internet usage for academic purpose between male and female student higher secondary students. Moreover female higher secondary students are found to be better than the male higher secondary students in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose.
3. There is a significant difference in internet usage for academic purpose between higher secondary students school located in urban area and rural area. Moreover higher secondary student studying in rural area school are found to be better than the higher secondary student studying in urban area school in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose.
4. There is a significant difference in internet usage for academic purpose between higher secondary students studying in Tamil medium and English medium. Moreover higher secondary student studying in English medium are found to be better than the higher secondary student studying in Tamil medium in respect of their internet usage for academic purpose.

Conclusion

Internet is a large computer network created out of some thousands of interconnected networks that support a whole range of services such as electronic, file transfer protocol, database access and many others (Ogedebe et al. 2002). The present study reveals that the higher secondary students' internet usage for academic purpose is high. The use of internet can enable new ways of thinking, learning and students to become leader and trainers who can assist their peer in using the internet in academic purpose. Thus it enhances student content interaction.

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