
Utilization of Internet by the Students of Agricultural University

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Abstract – Internet is an existing arena where you can find information about almost every topic-you have books, encyclopaedias, magazines, articles and every other type of reference material at your fingertips. College students are heavy users of the Internet compared to the general population. The present study was conducted to know about utilization of internet by the students of Akola and Nagpur Agricultural colleges in Maharashtra. Data was collected with the help of questionnaire from 140 respondents. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. Appropriate tools and technology were applied for the collection and interpretation of the data. In this study two indicators were considered viz., frequency of internet use and purpose of internet use to know about internet utilization by students. It is observed that majority of the respondents (71.4%) were using internet daily up to 2 hrs/day and the best three mostly preferred purposes on Internet use were, to collect information for research reference (71.43%), and for the purpose of career development (70.00%) and for sending and receiving e-mail to their friends & relatives (67.54%). From the present study it is concluded that majority (62.20%) level of the respondents are having medium level of internet utilization.

Keywords – Internet Utilization, College, Research Reference, Career Development, Agriculture Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

The 21st century is witnessing a technological integration in the world of computers, communication and electronic gadgets in which information processing and transfer are done at incredible speeds with the potential of controlling them from desktops. Communication is a conscious effort to share information, ideas and attitudes with others. Access to improved communication is a crucial requirement for sustainable agricultural and rural development. The global communication revolution has been an important part of our country and now India is opening up to the world economy. As a result, the situation has changed dramatically. To cope up with present age of science, technology, information and knowledge, India has also realized significance of education to develop brilliant human resources in various fields of communication.

India's internet users expected to register double digit growth to reach 627 million in 2019, driven by rapid internet growth in rural areas, market research agency Kantar IMRB said. In its ICUBE 2018 report that tracks digital adoption and usage trends in India, it noted that the number of internet users in India has registered an annual growth of 18 percent and is estimated at 566 million as of December 2018. Of the total user base, 87 percent or 493 million Indians are defined as regular users, having accessed internet in its last 30 days. Nearly 293 million active internet users reside in urban India, while there are 200 million active users in rural India (Anonymous, 2019a.) Maharashtra has the highest number of internet user base in India with 27.71 million internet users with 9.74 million coming from rural areas and 17.97 million users were from urban areas (Anonymous, 2019b).

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Post Graduate Institute, Akola and College of Agriculture, Nagpur. For the present study Ex post-facto Research design was used. The sample of 140 PG agricultural students were selected by the method of random sampling and data was collected with the help of questionnaire.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To know about Internet utilization by the student's two indicators were considered viz., frequency of internet use and purpose of internet use. By combining these two internet utilization of each respondent is calculated by using internet utilization index.

$$\text{Internet utilization} = \frac{\text{Frequency of internet use} + \text{Purpose of internet use}}{2}$$

3. a. Frequency of Internet Use

It was observed from the Table 1 that, in case of Frequency of internet use, the majority of the respondents (71.4%) were using internet daily up to 2hrs/day, followed by 15.70 and 12.80 per cent were using 3-5hrs/day and above 5hrs/day respectively. Majority of the respondents (42.86%) were using internet once in a week up to 5 hrs/day, followed by 34.29 and 22.85 per cent were using 3-5hrs/day and above 2hrs/day, respectively. In case of once in a fortnight 42.86 per cent respondents were using internet up to 5hrs/day, followed by 34.29 and 22.85 per cent were using above 3-5 hrs/day and up to 2hrs/day, respectively. Whereas, nearly half of respondents (48.58%) were using internet once in a month above 5hrs/day, while 41.42 per cent were using 3-5hrs/day and 10 per cent were using up to 2hrs/day, respectively. In case of occasionally majority of the respondents (52.15%) were using internet above 5hrs/day, followed by 43.57 per cent were using 3-5hrs/day and 04.28 per cent were using up to 2hrs/day, respectively.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their Frequency of internet use.

Sl. No	Frequency of Internet Use	Time Duration In Hours/day (Scores)		
		Up to 2 hrs /day (1)	3-5 hrs/day (2)	Above 5 hrs/day (3)
1	Daily	100 (71.40%)	22 (15.70%)	18 (12.80%)
2	Once in a week	32 (22.85%)	48 (34.29%)	60 (42.86%)
3	Once in a fortnight	27 (19.28%)	52 (37.15%)	61 (43.57%)
4	Once in a month	14 (10.00%)	58 (41.42%)	68 (48.58%)
5	Occasionally	06 (04.28%)	61 (43.57%)	73 (52.15%)

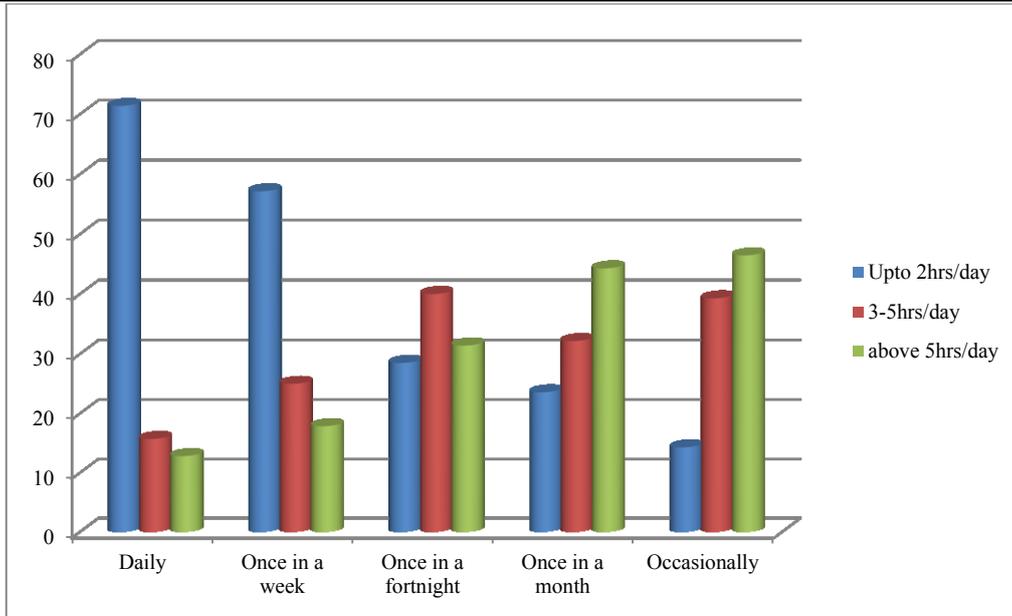


Fig. 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their Frequency of Internet use.

This could be due to the reason that the Internet provided variety of information at low cost and have updated information very short period of time, thus more hours spent at Internet may be attributed to browsing of latest information among respondents.

3. b. Purpose of Internet Use:

The purpose of use is operationally defined as why students are using the internet. There are many purposes for which the Internet can be used; as a person can explore it for his or her own areas of interest. Accordingly, the responses were obtained (from the respondents) in this regard, the details of which have been given as below.

The data presented in the Table 2 revealed that the best three mostly preferred purposes on Internet use were, to collect information for research reference (71.43%), and for the purpose of career development (70.00%) and for sending and receiving e-mail to their friends & relatives (67.54%). In addition to these, they also used Internet for: collecting useful information for class assignments (57.14%), to collect information for further higher studies (55.80%), for entertainment (53.57%), To send job application (33.80%), to send research articles for publication in journals (31.4%), for chatting (24.30%), and to collect information regarding seminar/ conferences (20.70%) etc.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their purpose of internet use.

Sl. No	Purpose of Internet use	SCORE		
		Always 2	Some times 1	Never 0
1.	To collect useful information for class assignments.	80 (57.14%)	38 (27.10%)	22 (15.71%)
2.	To collect useful information for research references.	100 (71.43%)	28 (20.00%)	12 (8.57%)
3.	To send research articles for publication in journals.	44 (31.4%)	36 (25.8%)	60 (42.8%)
4.	To collect information for further studies in foreign countries.	35 (25.00%)	30 (21.50%)	75 (53.50%)
5.	To collect information to attend seminar/ conferences etc.	29 (20.70%)	39 (27.80%)	72 (60.50%)

Sl. No	Purpose of Internet use	SCORE		
		Always 2	Some times 1	Never 0
6.	To collect information for further higher studies.	78 (55.80%)	16 (11.204%)	46 (32.80%)
7.	Searching useful sites for career development.	98 (70.00%)	28 (20.00%)	14 (10.00%)
8.	To send application for job.	46 (33.80%)	60 (42.82%)	34 (24.38%)
9.	For entertainment.	75 (53.57%)	36 (25.71%)	29 (21.72%)
10.	E-mail to friends and Relatives.	94 (67.54%)	32 (22.80%)	14 (11.56%)
11.	Chatting.	34 (24.30%)	49 (35.00%)	57 (40.70%)
12.	Others	0 (0.00%)	48 (34.20%)	92 (65.80%)

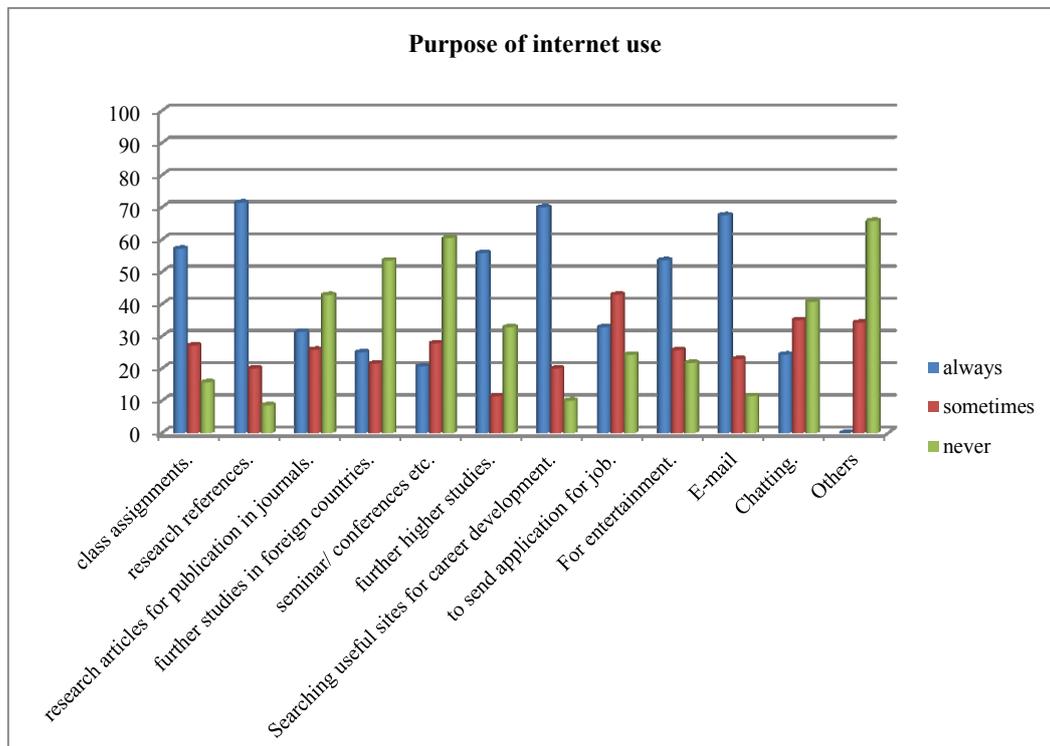


Fig. 2. Distribution of respondents according to their purpose of internet use.

The overall scores of respondents were computed and categorized the respondents by using internet utilization index as per the following.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their overall Internet Utilization.

Sl. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (<59)	21	15.00
2	Medium (60 to 84)	87	62.20
3	High (>84)	32	22.80
Total		140	100.00
Mean = 71.7		SD = 12.4	



From the Table 3 it is concluded that majority (62.20%) level of the respondents are having medium level of internet utilization followed by 22.80 percent and 15.00 percent respondents were having high and low level internet utilization respectively.

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus, by carefully analyzing majority of the respondents were using internet 2hrs/ day and, it is quite obvious that majority of the students need to supplement information for their research projects, and every student was found to be very much interested regarding their career development and they required to communicate with each other at least once in a day by e-mail. It is concluded that majority of the respondents are with medium level of internet utilization.

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