

USE OF ONLINE RESOURCES AMONG B.ED COLLEGE STUDENTS IN GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH : A STUDY

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to explore and analyze the use of Online Resources among students of B.Ed. College of Guntur region. The researchers intend to find out if there is any difference in the use of internet between the variables (various groups) i.e., Male and Female, Science and Arts and Urban and Rural B.Ed students. A 50-item survey was administered to 199 students of eight B.Ed. colleges to assess the use of Internet. The results indicate 26% of B.Ed students are highly using Internet. The chief objective of the study as mentioned is to analyze the awareness, understanding and utilization opinions of the B.Ed students regarding use of Internet. The study has been carried out in line with the objectives and conclusions arrived at are reported.

Keywords: Online Resources, Technology, Internet, Paradigm shift.

Introduction: Education plays a pivotal role in the development of an individual and through the individual to the development of a particular society in such a way that both enjoy maximum happiness and prosperity. In short, education is the development of the individual according to his needs and demands of society, of which he is an integral part. In short, education acts as a catalyst of the individual according to his needs and demands of society, of which he is an integral part.

Education is a simultaneous process of teaching and learning, whereas, off late, the process has undergone a paradigm shift from teaching to learning. Earlier, the teacher has been the kingpin who decides the various facets of teaching and the only method used was oral communication. The world of today is under the impact of two explosions i.e. population explosion and knowledge explosion. These explosions have had a tremendous influence on education and the associated problems have been solved using educational technology.

Significance of the Study: The 21st Century has been now extremely advanced and well-developed and the basic reason for this development is actually the launch of the internet and its applications which have provided the individuals with the easiest routine in their daily lives. The accessibility to internet has made the most complicated and physically demanding work so simple, easy and accurate. For example, the shopping which is indeed a very complicated and time consuming one has been made as simple as the click of a button. Thus technology has emerged as one of the breakthroughs of the internet. The accessibility of internet has widened the opportunities for business and professional developments. The internet is indeed the major advancement in the 21st Century, enabling the common people to sit at home and rule the world. The internet is the largest, most powerful computer network in the world. Actually, it is a network of networks where all freely and comfortably exchange

information. It encompasses 1.3 million computers with internet access that is used by almost 30 million people in more than 50 countries

Rationale of the Study: Internet has become an important mode of communication and source of information to millions of people all over the world. The researchers have taken up the case of the sample B.Ed. students because they are matured ones and they can use the internet for different purposes. All the students belonging to different disciplines also use Internet equally. That is why the researchers have taken the B.Ed students as the sample.

The researchers have chosen to conduct the study in various B.Ed colleges located in Guntur District. The reason for selecting Guntur as a region for study is that a large number of colleges offering a variety of under graduate courses are situated in this region. Moreover, since the researchers come from the same district conducting the study is relatively easier and effective. Hence the present study is taken up to find out the Internet use among B.Ed students of Guntur District.

Relevance of Present Study: A number of studies have been done on the use of Internet both in India and abroad. The studies done Abroad are as follows: Internet use by Teachers (1998), The Use of Internet Among Malaysian Libraries (1998), Information Technology in Michigan: Adult and Teen Survey Report (1999), Internet Use survey: Analysis (2000), use of the Web for health information and advice (2003), Internet Use among Community college Students: Implications in designing health care interventions, information searching habits of Internet users (2005)

The studies done in India on Internet services in Calicut University (1999), Use of Internet by Social Science Research Scholars: A study in academic libraries in the Internet era (1999), Purpose of Internet using by research worker at Pune University (1999), Use of Internet resources and services in S.V. University (2000) Internet facility at Guru Nanak Dev

University, Amritsar: A survey (2000), Status of awareness and demand of web based learning environment among science & Technology information seekers (2003) Internet Utilization pattern of the undergraduate students of GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (2005), Internet and Its use in the Engineering colleges of Punjab (2005), Internet use among University students of Punjab (2005), An article E-mailing, job search most preferred by on-liners (2007), Internet usage and its popularity among the student community (2007).

Malikarjun and Suresh Gudimani (2008) conducted a survey to understand student's usage of internet and computer technology, their experience with technology and their aptitudes and expectation about technology resource and identify areas for improvement that all the respondents are using computer and online services in the library.

Baheerathan .M, (2003) studied the internet awareness among the teachers of Mathematics at high school level in Tanjore District. He reported that the internet awareness among the students of mathematics at high school level is not sufficient. He also found out that the gender of the teachers and the locale and the management of the schools where they are working caused no significant difference in respect of their internet awareness.

Senthil Kumar K. (2004) studied the internet knowledge of higher secondary chemistry students. He found that the internet knowledge possessed by the first year higher secondary students is not high in knowing the internet. He also reported that the girls have relatively high internet knowledge when compared to boys in general.

Siju Abraham (2003) conducted a study entitled "internet awareness among the college teachers of physics". He reported that the internet awareness is very essential learning process. The rural college physics teachers need training programme for knowing physics related websites. This finding and results is not the end of a problem, but just a beginning of the search for innovation. By applying these results, the quality of teaching-learning process will improve.

Methodology: The questionnaire method has been adopted for collecting research data from the students of B.Ed. colleges which has been distributed to 6 B. Ed colleges in Guntur District. 260 questionnaires distributed to the students and faculty members in 8 B. Ed colleges of Guntur Dist. Out of which, 199 filled in questionnaires were received back, which comes to 76.53%.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the internet use among the B. Ed students and to classify them.
2. To find out the Internet use among B. Ed students regarding the following areas

- a) Educational purpose
- b) E-mail
- c) Chatting
- d) Job related information
- e) News up date
- f) Entertainment

3. To find out the influence of following variables on Internet use among B. Ed students

- a) Gender – Male, female
- b) Course of Study – Arts, Science
- c) Location – Urban, Rural

For the present study, the researchers have taken up a stratified random sample of 199 B.Ed students in various colleges of Guntur District.

Tool Used In the Study: There are a number of tools that can be adopted in any research for the purpose of collecting data. Some of them are questionnaires, rating scale, checklist, observation, interview schedule, etc. The researchers used questionnaire as a tool as it is found to be more suitable and helpful to the present study

Data Collection: The questionnaire was given to B.Ed students of various colleges in Guntur district. The researchers personally went for the data collection and got the permission from the principal of different B.Ed colleges. The researchers first explained the importance of the study to the B.Ed students and gave instructions regarding how to fill the questionnaire.

Questionnaire: A questionnaire is a device consisting of a series of Questions dealing with some psychological, social, educational, etc. Topics sends or given to individuals with the object of obtaining data with regard to any problems under investigation. Questions scattered in each area:

S.No	Area	No. Of Questions	Question numbers
1.	Educational purpose	10	1-10
2.	E-mail	10	11-20
3.	Chatting	8	21-28
4.	Job Related Information	5	29-33
5.	News Update	7	34-40
6.	Entertainment	10	40-50

Objective - 1: To find out, the internet use among B.Ed students and to classify them

From the above findings it is clear that, majority of the B.Ed students are using the internet moderately. The reasons for this is the internet is like an ocean of knowledge that can be accessed from anywhere in the world. It is like a worldwide library contains enormous volumes of information on any conceivable topic.

The advent of internet has brought the world to ones finger tips. Students can gather information practically on any subject. It is a wonderful source of information for students doing project works. Internet gives the students an opportunity to interact with other students and teachers across the world. They can get first hand information on the happenings in field of science, politics, sports etc. They can update themselves with the latest news in any walk of life.

Objective - 2

To find out the Internet use among B.Ed students regarding the following areas

- a) Educational purpose
- b) E-mail
- c) Chatting
- d) Job related information
- e) News up date
- f) Entertainment

Findings: It is found that majority of the B.Ed students are using the internet for the area "Educational purposes" and less % of the students expressed they are using the Internet for the area "Chatting".

From the above findings it is clear that majority of the B.Ed. educational purposes and less% of the students is using Internet for Chatting. The reasons for this is now-a-days the students are eager to get educationally-oriented information. So they prefer to go to Internet than libraries for getting information for assignments and project works since any kind of information is available to the students through Internet. Without any difficulty they are getting wide information regarding every aspect of Education. Less% of the students is spending their leisure time on direction less surfing in order to have chatting.

From the above discussions it is clear that the B.Ed students are utilizing the Internet properly.

Objective - 3

To find out the influence of following variables on Internet use among B.Ed Students: a) Gender - Male, female

b) Course of Study - Arts, Science

c) Location - Urban, Rural

From the above findings, it is clear that both Male and Female are using the Internet equally. It is due to the fact that in this 21st Century age, women are competing with men in all walks of life. So, women are using the Internet equally with that of men.

Suggestions

The following suggestions have been put forth from the findings of the present study.

For Students

1. Students may use the Internet properly for right purposes.
2. Students may be provided the facility to use the Internet at educational institutions instead of visiting cyber cafes.
3. Students should follow cyber ethics.
4. While chatting with strangers, students should keep their personal information protected.
5. Students should not spend more time on directionless surfing.
6. Students should not neglect the real world, with its real problems for sake of Internet.

For Colleges

1. Colleges should provide Internet access to the students.
2. All Educational institutions should improve the computer infrastructure and need to possess general computer accessories like CD-writer, Scanner, LCD Projector, Digital Camera, Internet facility etc.,
3. Steps should be taken by colleges to provide continuous power supply at least during the college working hours in rural areas so that Internet services should be used by the students.
4. The number of hours per week on Computer Education should be enhanced in every college.
5. The ratio of students and systems with internet facility in the college must proportionate.

Conclusion: The present study is limited to Guntur District only and it can be extended to other Districts also. A similar study can be done by taking other professional course students as sample. A similar study can be taken in relation to Teens and Adults. A study can be carried out further taking the opinion of parents.

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