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REVIEW OF RESEARCH

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON INTERNET USAGE PATTERNS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF HARYANA STATE.

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ABSTRACT :

Internet is the most popular tool to get information and to be connected worldwide with family and friends. It provides valuable information which is beneficial for teachers, students and for everyone. It caters the very information which an individual want to access or which is necessary for her/him. She/he need not go for any other media to get the more information about the same topic. It has a prominent place in the lives of students especially university students. It aids them in the completion of their study projects, a supplement of their lectures and managing their life personally and socially. The present study is an attempt to explore the usage patterns of internet of university students of Haryana state. The study focusses to answer the following questions: What is the time preference of students for using the internet? What are the university students' dominant places of using the internet? What are the university students' main purposes of using the internet?

KEYWORDS : *Usage Patterns, Internet, University Students.*

INTRODUCTION

Internet is a vast and global collection of computer networks that are connected by devices called routers. It uses a common set of protocols to transmit data which is known as TCP/IP (transmission control protocol/ Internet protocol). It is a network that provides a variety of information and communication facilities to the extent that today world has shrunk to a unit. Internet makes it possible for a computer which is connected to it to send and receive information globally from any other computer which is also connected to it.

The internet is increasingly playing a crucial role in the lives of all the people worldwide. It has changed our way of thinking and living. It has restyled the way people communicate with one another and obtain information and has created an unimaginable variety of commercial and leisure activities. If you want to get the latest information about any field, the internet is the best tool that will take you beyond telephones, faxes, news etc. If we are going to plan a vacation, communicate with family and friends to know the latest trends of clothing, to know about any disease, to get the information about any household, to know the climatic conditions of any place and so on , need not to ask anyone, just browse the internet and the information is in front of your eyes. Not only this, people feel it proud when they have internet recharge in their mobile phones and feel down if they have not. Thus, use of internet has become the symbol of status in the society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The popularity of internet has been increasing at its peak speed especially among young generation.

University students are taking most of its advantages. Benefits of internet are known to everyone today; information about each and everything can be taken from internet with ease and comfort. Many studies have been conducted by different researchers related to the internet. Zawng Hkawng (2016) conducted a study to find out the purpose of Internet use by the students of Eastern Theological College of Jorhat in India. And revealed that majority of the respondents (74%) use Internet for the entertainment and social networks such as facebook, youtube, viber, etc. 32% respondents used Internet 7 days a week and 63% respondents used Internet 3-4 days a week respectively. Only 13% respondents had habits of downloading reading resources from the Internet for which they found relevant for their study though in a very limited extent. O.O.Aderonke (2013) undertook a study on Internet Access and Use among Undergraduate students and found that 68.8% used the internet daily, 20.1% monthly, and 4.7% used weekly. On hours spent on the internet, 41.6% spend between 7-9 hours a week, 27.9% spend between 2-4 hours a week, 18.5% spend between 5-6 hours a week, 6.4% spend less than 2 hours a week, and 4.4% spend between 10-20 hours a week. while 1.3% spend above 20 hours a week. 81.6% agreed that internet has positive impact on their academic work. Two hundred and forty-two (81.2%) agreed that it is easy to access information on the internet than on the library shelves. The improvement of academic achievement may be a specific result of educational use of the Internet, while non-educational Internet use consequently hinders academic achievement Soohyun Kim 2011) . Some of the Facebook users were also found to report that Facebook activities distract them from their educational endeavors, even though they realized that their education is supposed to be their priority. Another detrimental effect of the internet is the use of it while in class, studying, or doing homework. These behaviors were found to negatively affect the learning experience. Nonetheless, the internet is not necessarily bad for students. Internet tools such as social media were found to enhance and facilitate offline social interaction (Jacobsen & Forste, 2011). Kirschner and Karpinski (2010) found that Facebook users and Facebook nonusers who reported a similar amount of time for Internet use were differentiated in terms of how often they logged into Facebook. Facebook users were found to have a lower mean GPA, and fewer hours studying per week. Sandeep Grover (2010) found Two-thirds of the sample was using Internet regularly for more than a year. 39.13 months was the mean duration of using Internet daily and there was significant difference between the duration of using internet of males and females . 2.13 hours were the average time spent on Internet everyday and there was no significant difference between males' and females' time spent on internet. 56.73% of the sample used the Internet for 2 hours daily. 58.6% of the sample used the internet for 1-3 hours daily. the daily Internet use of more than half of the sample (58.6%) was in the range of 1-3 h.

Bansode and Pujar. (2008) observed that the entire respondents were found to have sufficient knowledge of Internet and revealed that majority of users use Internet on daily basis. 97 (79.50%) respondents are the regular users of Internet who browse Internet at least once in a day. 18 (14.75%) make use of Internet 2-3 times in a week and 7 (5.75%) respondents make use of Internet once in a week. Avi Goldfarb (2008) observed that educated people and people had high-income were more likely to have adopted the internet by December 2001. It was also found that low-income and less-educated people spend more time on internet. They examined four possible reasons for this pattern: (1) differences in the opportunity cost of leisure time, (2) differences in the usefulness of online activities, (3) differences in the amount of leisure time, and (4) selection. They suggests this pattern is best explained by differences in the opportunity cost of leisure time. Egea J.M.O. et.al. (2007) classified European citizens into five segments on the basis of their usage patterns of internet. These different segments are: Laggards (16%) , Confused or Adverse (2%), Advanced users (19%) , Followers (19%) and Non-Internet users(44%). Male respondents are found more frequent and innovative internet users. The most advanced Internet users are identified between the age of 20 – 29 years. followed by people between 30 and 39 years old. The education of European citizens marks clear differences between the segments of more or less innovative Internet users. Hanauer, David, (2004) found that although all the students surveyed has free internet access through their community college only 97% of the students reported having access to the internet. The survey showed that 83% of internet users had access to internet at their home and 51% of the respondents accessed the internet at their college or library. 81% of the students reported to access the internet most for college work and 80% for e-mail/chat.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The objectives of the present study are to:
1. discover the most popular device among university students to access the internet.
2. ascertain the experience of using internet of university students.
3. find out the frequency of using internet of university students.
4. determine the time spent online by university students.
5. determine the purposes of using internet by university students.
6. find out dominant places where university students access the internet.

METHODOLOGY
Research Method
In the present study the investigator used descriptive method of research.

Sampling
In the present study, sample was drawn from four universities of Haryana. 400 university students were chosen randomly for data collection.

INSTRUMENTATION
In the present study, a semi – structured questionnaire was developed by investigator to gauge the usage patterns of internet of university students. After constructing the questionnaire, The investigator checked the reliability of the test and made necessary changes. The reliability of the test is .657.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics frequency and simple percentage which is presented in tables.

Device to Access Internet
Mobile is the most popular device among university students which is used as first choice to access the internet, shown in table 1 in the response of the question ' which device you use for accessing internet?' 303 (75.8 %) of the total sample uses mobile for accessing the internet, only 13 (3.3 %) respondents use internet through personal computer, 25 (6.3 %) use through laptop and 59 (14.75 %) respondents use internet through more than one device i.e. mobile, laptop, personal computer and tablet.

Table 1: Device used to Access Internet

DEVICE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Mobile	303	75.8
PC	13	3.3
Laptop	25	6.3
Two or more devices	59	14.75
Total	400	100

Experience (years) of Using Internet
In the response of the statement, experience or time duration of using internet, students who are using internet from 2 - 4 years are 180 (45%), 143 (35.8%) students are those who are using internet for more than 5 years, and 77 (19.3 %) students have been using the internet for 1 year only.

Table 2: Experience (years) of Using Internet of University Students

YEARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
More than 5 years	143	35.8
2 – 4 years	180	45
1 year	77	19.3

+

Frequency of Using Internet

Table 3 shows the result of the question 'how often do you use internet?' In the response of this statement, 289 (72.3%) students revealed that they use internet everyday. This indicates that majority of the university students of Haryana access internet daily. 67 (16.8%) students go online 2-3 times a week and only 44 (11 %) students use internet once in a week. This finding corresponds with the study done by A.O. Otunla (2013) who also found that 205(68.8%) students used the internet daily.

Table 3: Frequency of Using Internet of University Students

FREQUENCY OF USE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Everyday	289	72.3
2 – 3 times a week	67	16.8
Once in a week	44	11
Total	400	100

Total Hours Spent on the Internet weekly

Table 4 shows the total or average hours spent on the internet by university students. Out of the total sample of 400, the students who use internet less than 20 hours weekly are 137 (34.3%). 127 (31.8 %) students use internet between 21-36 hours weekly and 136 (34 %) students use internet more than 36 hours. The students who use less than 20 hours weekly categorized low internet users and who use internet between 21-36 hours weekly are categorized average internet users. And the students who use internet more than 36 hours categorized high internet users.

Table 4: Total hours spent weekly on the internet by university students

HOURS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
20 hours	137	34.3
21 – 36 hours	127	31.8
More than 36 hours	136	34
Total	400	100

Time preference for using internet

Students were asked about their preference of time for using internet. Results indicated that majority of the students i.e.249 (62.3 %) prefers to use internet after 8 pm. And 92 (23%) students prefers to use internet between 4pm-8pm, 37 (9.3 %) students use it between 12noon-4pm and 22 (5.5 %) students between 8am - 12noon.

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Table 5: Student's preference of time for using Internet

TIME	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
8am-12noon	22	5.5
12noon-4pm	37	9.3
4pm-8pm	92	23
After 8pm	249	62.3
Total	400	100

Purpose of using Internet

In the response of the statements regarding purposes of using internet, table 6 shows that 360(90%) students use internet for academic purposes and 40(10%) do not use it for academic activities, 383(95.8%) use internet for enhancing general knowledge and 17(4.2%) do not use for enhancing their general knowledge, 331(82.8%) for watching and download videos and movies and 69(17.2%) do not use for watching or download videos/movies , 361(90.3%) for chatting with friends and 39(9.7%) do not use for chatting with friends , 231(57.8%) for online shopping and 169(42.2%) do not use internet for online shopping.

Table 6: Purposes of using Internet by university students

PURPOSE	N	FREQUENCY		PERCENT	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Academic activities	400	360	40	90	10
General knowledge	400	383	17	95.8	4.2
Watching or download videos/movies	400	331	69	82.8	17.2
Chat	400	361	39	90.3	9.7
Online shopping	400	231	169	57.8	42.2

Place of using Internet

Every student of university uses internet at more than one place. This can be seen in the Table 7 which shows the place of using internet of the university students. 367(91.8%) students use internet at home and 33(8.2%) students do not use internet at home, 185(46.3%) use it in the hostel but 215(53.7%) students do not use it in the hostel, 202(50.5%) students use at friend's house and 198(49.5%) students do not use at friend's house, 128(32%) students use internet at cyber café and 272(68%) students do not use at cyber cafes, 269(67.3%) students use in the university lawn but 131(32.7%) students do not use internet in the university lawn and 212(53%) students use in university computer laboratory and 188(47%) do not use in the computer laboratory.

Table 7: Place of using internet of university students

PLACE	N	FREQUENCY		PERCENT	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
Home	400	367	33	91.8	8.2
Hostel	400	185	215	46.3	53.7
Friend's house	400	202	198	50.5	49.5
Cyber café	400	128	272	32	68
University lawn	400	269	131	67.3	32.7
Computer lab.	400	212	188	53	47

MAJOR FINDINGS

• Mobile phone is the most popular device to access the internet among university students with 75.8% of the

total sample, 3.3% respondents use internet through personal computer, 6.3% use through laptop and 14.75% respondents make use of more than one device to access the internet.

• On the experience of using internet, 35.8% students have the experience of using internet more than 5 years, 45% students have the experience of using internet between 2 – 4 years and 19.3 % students have been using internet for 1 year.

• The study also revealed that 72.3% students use internet everyday, 16.8% students go online 2 – 3 times a week and 11% students use internet once in a week.

• 34.3% of the total sample use internet less than 20 hours weekly, 31.8% use between 21 – 36 hours weekly and 34% use internet more than 36 hours.

• The results also indicated that 62.3% students prefer to use internet after 8pm, 23% students prefer to use between 4pm – 8pm, 9.3% use between 12 noon – 4pm and 5.5% students use internet between 8am – 12 noon.

• Students showed multiple responses in the response of the statements regarding purposes of using internet, 90% students use internet for academic purposes, 95% use for enhancing general knowledge, 90.3% use for chatting with friends, 82.8% for watching and download videos or movies and 57.8% use it for online shopping.

• Places of using internet also got multiple responses. 91.8% students out of the total sample 400 use internet at home, 46.3% use it in the hostel, 50.5% use at friend's house, 32% use at cyber café, 67.3% use in the university lawn and 53% use in university computer laboratory.

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