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A STUDY ON ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

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ABSTRACT

In the present era almost all the students of higher education use internet, Computer, Laptop and Smartphone almost all the time for fulfilling their various needs of their daily life. Internet connected Smart phone, Laptop, Computers are very useful tools to full fill various educational needs and other needs of the daily life. Laptop, computers, Smartphone with internet connection can be used in teaching learning processes effectively. They can also be used in evaluation process, online data collection, searching of various information etc. In review of literature, it is observed that there is a lack of studying the students' opinion towards the use of electronic gazette in the teaching learning process specially in higher education. In this investigation 248 undergraduate students were randomly chosen from various colleges of West Bengal who use various electronic gazette in their daily life. The investigation reveals that major students beliefs that Laptop, Computers and Smartphone as a learning resource will be very effective for the students and they can be easily used as a source of various information's using internet connections. Students will be benefitted by downloading useful books, viewing power point presentations and lectures of various eminent personality easily through electronic gazette.

KEYWORDS: Higher education, Students, Laptop, Computers, Smartphone, Information, , Internet.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic gazette based learning is a new wave in the field of education. The use of various electronic gazette in education provides informal, personal, voluntary, and any time learning opportunities for both students and teachers.

Teaching with the help of electronic gazette motivates teachers and students in teaching learning processes and give many benefits to students especially those who find themselves discomfort and difficulties in the traditional teaching learning processes.

Nowadays teaching with the help of electronic gazette is very much needed and this will help the students to get proper and appropriate education.

Now the most importance things is to fix some principles and strategies for the smart phone based teaching learning processes. Over the past few years various types of research have been conducted for the use of Information and Communication Technology(ICT) in different sectors.

Electronic gazette based teaching learning processes has a huge impact on teachers, students, researchers and educational policy makers and this helped greatly to improve the educational infrastructure and education system. In the field of educational system the use of electronic instruments, computers, internet etc is called e-learning.

In the modern education system teaching using ICT have become an important issue for any higher educational institutions worldwide. Education system around the world are benefitting from ICT and electronic gazette based teaching learning processes.

Smart phone, Laptop, Computers helps students in various ways. It helps the students to raise their knowledge about various technological process, it helps them to make conversations with various peoples, it helps them to join in social media, it helps the students in any place and any time learning. Smart phone teaching has gradually become an integral part of the traditional teaching and learning process and has given rise to new flavors in traditional teaching-learning process. Various teaching-learning mobile Apps has given a “new-breath” in the modern education system. With the emergence of various mobile Apps, higher education system all over the world has enriched and various higher education institutions extended their conventional educational platforms by introducing the distance learning with the help of ICT.

Since many, higher education institutions already use ICT and smart phone device in teaching learning process so there is a requirement to explore the students and teachers' attitudes towards smart phone based learning, which is the main purpose of this study. The present study will help the decision makers and educationalist of the higher education institutions of India to take initiatives for adopting smart phone based learning and to design the appropriate infrastructure, which is a very important step towards applying smart phone learning. Without any prior investigation, it is difficult to rely on smart phone learning technology as learners and teachers' attitudes are unknown. This present study indicated that these attitudes were not yet investigated sufficiently within India. This fact motivates us to continue our study on this area and to find out the gaps that have not yet been covered.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In the modern day almost all the students of graduate level use mobile phones and smart phone.

Wilhelm, Yankov, & Magee (2011) in their study found that all the students of Northwest University who responded in their research questions owned at least one mobile phone.

M-learning survey in higher education of UK revealed that students of the age group 16-24 years are switching into learning by mobile phones and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) (Mitchell & Savill-Smith, 2004).

According to Sharples et al. (2005), the implementation to any educational technology should consist of three parts: the learner(students), the educator(teachers) and the technology itself. Mobile learning as an use of ICT in education involve both the students and teachers to take part in its implementation strategy; the reason that motivated us to focus on the students and teachers attitudes towards the use of such technology in this study.

Investigation of Al-Emran, M., & Shaalan, K. (2015, August) claimed that study of the attitudes toward any technology help the policy makers to identify the shortcomings and strengths and contribute to the establishment of a reliable infrastructure.

A study by Karadeniz, S. (2009) on the students' perceptions towards the results of the assessment and the influence on students' productivity through taking the mobile-based assessment revealed that students tend to like the mobile-based assessment as it is user-friendly, simple, and getting quick results through the internet using their smart phones.

Investigation of Al-Emran, M., Elsherif, H. M., & Shaalan, K. (2016).stated that 99% of the students in the Gulf region countries (Oman & UAE) own Smart phone/tablets. The study showed that a large number of many students use their mobile phone in the learning-teaching process, web surfing, and checking their emails. The study also indicates that students are highly inclined towards using smart phones for educational purposes.

However, Smart phone based learning is still a new technology in the higher education system. The aim of my present study is to identify the differences in attitudes among the students according to their gender, smart phone availability etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

1. To investigate the the students' attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning in terms of gender.
2. To investigate the difference among the students' attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning in terms of stream of study.
3. To investigate the the students' attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning in terms of their level of study.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Student's attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to male and female students.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Student's attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to Semester-I and Semester-V students.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Student's attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to Arts Stream Students and Science Stream Students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**Sample:**

The data was collected from students by creating a questionnaire survey. Surveys were conducted to Graduate level students of different colleges of West Bengal. The total number of participants were 248 students. In this study Purposive Sampling technique have been used to select the samples from the populations.

The students were very much eager to participate in the study. Students from various departments, different subjects were taken part in the study. Graduate level Students of Semester-I & Semester-V were chosen as sample of the study. The data collection has been conducted in November to December 2019.

Semester-I		No.of Students	Electronic gazette owner/user	Semester-V		No.of Students	Electronic gazette owner/user
Arts	Male	35	31	Arts	Male	32	30
	Female	25	22		Female	28	24
Science	Male	31	28	Science	Male	32	28
	Female	33	29		Female	32	27
Total		124	110			124	109

Survey Structure:

A questionnaire survey was conducted among the students. The students' survey consists of two parts. The first part were about the demographic data of the participants in addition to their electronic gazette usage. The second part consists of 20 items that represent the students' attitudes toward the use of electronic gazette in the teaching learning processes. A five-point Likert Scale has been used to measure the 20 items in the questionnaire. The point was given as: strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1)

Researcher himself developed the questionnaire of the test.

Measurement Analysis:

Reliability:

The Reliability of the test was calculated for the 20 items that characterize **the student's attitudes towards electronic gazette based learning in Higher Education**, calculating the Cronbach's alpha. A test will be reliable if the Alpha values is 0.7 or more than 0.7 Our study showed that the Cronbach's alpha value for the 20 items is Alpha = 0.872. and the calculated alpha value is greater than 0.7, so the variables are reliable.

Research Methodology:

An independent sample *t*-test was performed for examining the existence of any statistically significant difference among the students' attitudes towards electronic gazette based learning in Higher Education with regard to their gender.

Findings and Discussion:

The data was received from 248 students. There were 130 (52.4%) male students, 118 (47.6%) female students. There were 124 Semester-I students (50%) and 124 Semester-V (50%) students.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Students attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to male and female students.

Table - 1

Gender	N	Mean	Variance	t	p	Significance
Male	130	65.58	57.1452	0.54944	0.5832	At the 0.05 level, the two means are NOT significantly different.
Female	118	65.07	48.66203			

An independent sample *t*-test was performed for examining the existence of any statistically significant difference among the students' attitudes towards the use of electronic gazette in their teaching learning processes with regard to their gender. According to Table 1, no statistically significant difference exist among the students with regard to their gender. Study of Al-Emran, M., Elsherif, H. M., & Shaalan, K. (2016). And Nevertheless also revealed that no statistical differences exist in terms of gender.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Students attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to Semester-I and Semester-V students.

Table-2

Semester	N	Mean	Variance	t	p	Significance
I	124	65.49	54.93489	0.339	0.73438	At the 0.05 level, the two means are NOT significantly different.
V	124	65.17	51.36664			

Means and Variance for the students' of Semester-I and Semester-V were computed for investigating the existence of any significant difference among the students' attitudes towards the utilization electronic gazette in teaching learning processes in Graduation level. An independent sample *t*-test was performed for examining the existence of any statistically significant difference among the

students' attitudes towards the use of smart phone, laptop, computers in their teaching learning processes with regard to their Semester. According to Table 2, our results revealed that there were no statistically significant differences ($t= 0.339$, at the 0.05 level, the two means are NOT significantly different) among the students' attitudes in terms of their Semester. This result could be attributed to the reason that all age groups are highly motivated to use smart phone in teaching learning processes. .

H₀₃: There is no significant difference among the Graduate Level Students attitudes towards the electronic gazette based learning with respect to Arts Stream Students and Science Stream Students.

Tabe-3

Stream	N	Mean	Variance	t	p	Significance
Arts	120	65.73	53.9451	0.835	0.40466	At the 0.05 level, the two means are NOT significantly different.
Science	128	64.96	52.16382			

An independent sample t-test was performed for examining the existence of any statistically significant difference among the students' attitudes towards the use of electronic gazette in their teaching learning processes with regard to their Semester. According to Table-3, our results revealed that there were no statistically significant differences ($t= 0.835$, at the 0.05 level, the two means are NOT significantly different) among the students' attitudes in terms of their Stream (Arts Stream Students and Science Stream Students). This result could be attributed to the reason that the students of all stream are highly motivated to use various electronic gazette in teaching learning processes.

DISCUSSIONS:

The findings of the present study reveals that most students have their own smart phones and other electronic gazette though many students also use their parents smart phones. Almost all the smart phone user students use their smart phone as a learning tools and also access to learning resources using their smart phone with internet connection. Resources become available to students without having to physically visit libraries, desktops, or meeting with friends because of the reliable and secure Internet connection.

Although smart phones and other electronic gazettes are used in many ways in the field of education, it does great harm to students also. Although students think that the electronic gazettes are very important tool in their education, care must be taken not to misuse it. The present study also shows that various types of educational programs can be done with different organizations through social media using smart phone and other electronic gazette to improve the educational system. A part of the students believes that if social media is used appropriately in the field of education, it will benefit the teachers, students, education system and the entire society. But it should be used appropriately and not abused.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK:

The present study shows that a large number of students use smart phones and other electronic gazettes in their daily life as well as in education. So teachers should encourage students to use smart phones appropriately in education and also warn them that use it in education but not to misuse it. Teachers and educational policy-makers need to keep in mind that teaching materials need to be developed in such a way that will be easily accessible to all.

Only Semester-I and Semester-V students of graduate level were the samples of the present study. The present study was limited to three factors such as gender, semester and stream of study. In order to work on online electronic gazette based learning in future, some more factors need to be included such as various levels of study, students of remote area and urban area, guardians, teachers and educational policy makers etc.

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