



Research Article

INTERNET USAGE OF RURAL AND URBAN ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

Internet has become the backbone of the modern education system. The present study was conducted to compare the Internet use of rural and urban Adolescents. The Purposive random sampling technique was employed to select students and data collected through a questionnaire. The results reveal comparatively boys were spending more time on internet rather than girls. When compared to age 14years and 15years old students were watching more time (mean=42.94) with regard to birth order comparatively first born children were spending more time (45.94 minutes) than 2nd and 3rd born children. The findings also indicate that both the rural and urban living students were using internet more compare to rural living students comparatively type of school and place of residence. Comparatively private school students were using internet more rather than government school students.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a critical period of development and it is the transitional period from childhood to adulthood. The ages associated with adolescence are commonly considered to be 12yrs to 18 yrs. During this period, physical and brain functioning undergo dramatic changes which lead to quicker development of cognitive and social abilities. The time is ripe to assess the impact of home computer use on child and adolescent development. Most of Indian children now access to home computers and are using them for playing games to doing school work to chatting with friends via e-mail to surfing the Web. Although, in India children still spend more time watching television than using computers, when a nationally representative sample of children ages 8 to 18 in USA were asked which medium they would choose to bring with them to a desert island, more have chosen a computer with internet access than any other medium, including television.

Global Internet Usage

The internet is a global linking of computers that allows information transfer. The internet was established in the early 1960s by the U.S. Department of defense (Schneider, Evans, & Pinard, 2006), primarily for military purposes.

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Since then, the continual improvement of the internet technology has provided an extraordinary level of public accessibility to a wide range of forms of communication, e.g. intra organizational and inter organizational email; data storage, management and transfer; social websites like face book; text Messaging such as twitter, and so forth. Due to the development and spread of cheaper and more user – friendly computer technology and soft wares (e.g., portable computers, Microsoft word, Android, smart phones etc), the use of the internet has increased dramatically. In 2010, the world's internet use was 28.7 per cent of the population. While this may not seem like a very large portion of the world's population, the growth in the use of the internet has been dramatic. For example, between 2000 and 2010, the rate of growth of internet use was 444.8 per cent.

Different purpose of usage of internet

The Internet provides opportunities galore, and can be used for a variety of things. Some of the things students can do via the internet are:

- **E-mail:** E-mail is an online correspondence system. With e-mail one can send and receive an instant electronic message, which works like writing letters. Messages are delivered instantly to people anywhere in the world, unlike traditional mail that takes a lot of time.

Access Information: The Internet is a virtual treasure trove of information. Any kind of information on any topic under the sun is available on the internet. The 'search engines' on the internet can help one to find data on any subject.

- **Shopping:** Along with getting information on the internet, now people can also shop online. There are many online stores and sites that can be used to look for products as well as buy them using credit card.
- **Online Chat:** There are many 'chat rooms' on the web that can be accessed to meet new people, make new friends, as well as to stay in touch with old friends.
- **Downloading software:** This is one of the most happening and fun things to do via the internet. Students can download innumerable, games, music, video, movies, and a host of other entertainment software from the internet, most of which are free.

Role of parents and teachers in children's internet usage

Parents, educators and teachers can place internet filters that inhibit access to inappropriate sites such as pornography – blockings software. For example, only 5per cent of online health information is minimally affected by pornography – blocking software when installed at moderate settings while blocking 90 per cent of pornographic content.

Benefits of internet use for children

As a complex medium of communication, the internet provides the possibility of small, intimate social environments geared towards faster or" instant" communication. At the same time, the networks can be very large offering global access to its users.

Risk factors of internet use

Although the internet has consistent positive impacts on modern society, it has also caused various societal concerns about privacy, security, pornography, internet crime, and virtual community (Greenfield & Yan, 2006). It's easy accessibility poses greater risks and dangers for youth as compared to other forms of media. According to the National Altitudinal Poll, the number one media concern for parents has shifted from television to the internet: 85 per cent parents reported that among all forms of media, the internet posed the greater risk to their children (Common Sense Media, 2006). Parental concerns are valid, especially considering that teens are essentially free to view and post whatever they choose and communicate with whomever they want.

Objectives

- To find out the internet usage time of sample students according to child variables,
- To find out the internet usage time of sample students according to family variables.
- To find out the internet usage time of sample students according to type of school and
- To find out the internet usage time of sample students according to type of place of residence.

Hypotheses

- 1.Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to child variables
- 2.Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to family variables
- 3.Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according type of school and place of residence

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Adolescents and Internet Usage

Hsiungliu, Chunyin and Hsienhuang (2013), studied adolescent interpersonal relationship with friends, parent and teacher when using Face book for interaction. The collected samples were 740 junior high school students were invited to fill in a questionnaire and 673 questionnaires were available. Data were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance and paired-samples t-test. The analytic result confirm that adolescents with high frequency use of Facebook for interaction can expand their interpersonal relationships with friends than those who low with low frequency use, regardless of real –life or virtual relationship. However, their real-life interpersonal relationship with parents may weaken if overly use internet tools for interactions. Another finding, eliminating the factor of the time on face book use, reveals that the adolescent's real-life personal relationships are stronger than virtual interpersonal relationships,regardless of with friends, parents, and teachers.

Combining the above two findings, it is worth noting that the real-life interaction with parents may reduce if overlay use internet tools for interactions. Gencer and koc (2012), studied internet abuse among teenagers and its relations to some internet usage pattern and demographic characteristics in Turkey. The study was based on cross sectional research on three types of school that differ in their academic performances. Those were collected from 1380 high school students through a paper-based questionnaire. The result identified a small portion of students as internet abusers experiencing severe problems and one fourth as possible abusers experiencing occasional problems in their lives. Selfhout, Branje and Delsing (2009), examined the longitudinal associations of time spent on internet activities foe communication purpose (i.e., IM-ing) versus time spent on internet activities for non-communication purpose (i.e., surfing) with depression and social anxiety, as well as the moderating role of perceived friendship quality in these associations. Questionnaire data were gathered from 307 Dutch middle adolescents (average age 15 years) on two wave with a one-year interval. For adolescents who perceived low friendship quality, internet use for communication purposes and more depression and more social anxiety.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim of present study is to assess the internet usage of rural and urban adolescents. The sample was 100 children (50 boys and 50 girls) who were studying 9th standard in around Tirupathi town. The sample were selected from three government schools and two private schools in Tirupathi urban and rural areas

Variables of the Study

1. Child Variables

- Gender
- Age
- Birth Order

2. Analysis of data

The data collected from 100 students was pooled and codes were given appropriately. The coded data was entered into data sheets. The data were classified into categories codes were given to the categorized data also.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected was subjected to analysis by using relevant statistical techniques. The first hypothesis framed was that “Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to child variables”. t- test and ANOVA were performed to test the hypothesis.

Table 1. Distribution of Sample According to Internet Usage of student variable

S. No	Variables		Internet usage Time(Minute)		t/f value	
			Mean	S.D		
1	Gender	Boys	43.34	39.13	0.885@	
		Girls	34.84	46.19		p<0.335
2	Age	14yrs	41.65	38.49	0.037@	
		15yrs	42.94	52.70		p<0.848
3	Birth order	1 st born	45.94	47.82	0.086@	
		2 nd born	41.65	37.76		p<0.918
		3 rd born	35.00	35.35		

Table 2. Distribution of Sample According to Internet Usage Time across Type of School, Place of Residence and t/f values

S.No	Variables		Internet usage time (Minutes)		t/f value
			Mean	S.D	
1	Type Of School	Govt (n=2)	40.64	40.64	1.679@
		Private(n=37)	90.00	70.710	
2.	Type of residence	Rural(n=2)	40.64	70.710	1.679@
		Urban(n=37)	90.00	40.64	

@ Not significant

Table -1 and show the distribution of sample according to internet usage time across child variables and t/f values. From the table it is known that comparatively boys were spending more time (mean=43.34, S.D=39.13) than girls (mean=34.84, S.D=46.19) Next to it when compared to 14 yrs old students of 15 years old were watching for more time. (mean =42.94) With regard to birth order comparatively first born children were spending more time (45.94minutes) than 2nd and 3rd born children. The null hypothesis is accepted and can be said that “Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according to child variables”.

The second hypothesis framed was “Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according type of school and place of residence. Table -9 shows the distribution of sample students according to type of school and place of residence across mean internet usage time. The mean time for students of private school who were living in urban areas is 90.00 minutes (SD=70.71).The t/f values for both the variables i.e., type of family and place of residence is 1.679 which is not significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and can be said that “Students did not differ significantly in their internet usage time according type of school and place of residence.

Conclusion

The internet is a global linking of computers that allows information transfer. The continual improvement of the internet technology has provide an extraordinary level of public accessibility to a wide range of forms of communication and access to social website like, text messaging such as twitter, whats app etc. Due to the development and spread of cheaper and more user – friendly computer technology and software the use of the internet has increased dramatically. The world’s growth in the internet has been dramatic.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- 61 per cent were not using internet and only 39 per cent were using internet.
- When compared to gender boys were using more time on internet than girls
- Comparevely 15years old student were spending more time on internet rather than 14 years.
- When compared place of living and type of school private and urban living students weremore spending on internet.

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