

STUDENTS AND THE INTERNET: A STUDY OF INTERNET USE BY THE STUDENTS OF NIT KURUKSHETRA, HARYANA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

This study recognizes patterns of Internet use by students at NIT Kurukshetra, India. It investigates purposes for use, Internet resources and services used, training, places of use, student's satisfaction level toward Internet and the problems faced while using the Internet. A structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data. The questionnaires were distributed among the 100 students, out of which 80 (80%) responded to this study. Study results show that all the students are using the Internet frequently because NIT provides campus wide Wi-Fi Internet connection. It is noted that the students get the required information through the Internet. Respondents use the Internet in different ways, such as access to electronic journals (62.5%), software download (31.5%), and entertainment (58.75%), News Paper (33.75%), Research purpose (70%), for education (81.25%), and e-mail. Google and Yahoo search engines are preferred by almost students in comparison with other search engines and 90% of the students were very satisfied of the Internet.

Keywords: Internet, World Wide Web, Search engine, Internet Resource, Internet usage, Internet access, Search engines, Search strategy, NIT Kurukshetra, India

INTRODUCTION:

Mostly, Science and technical students use the Internet in the comparison of the general students. In the digital information world, we cannot access all over world once, yet we can access digital world in one mouse click on a small screen of the personal computer. Use of the Internet has become user-friendly communication of daily life of students and has brought a significance change in the searching of information. The Internet can be defined as “network of networks and is the world's largest and most widely used network. The Internet plays a vital role in science and technical student's education. The Internet offers more information on every field and subject that is valuable to students and research scholars than the largest print collection of the library. The required information can be accessed from anywhere with an Internet connection and with no time limitation, no physical boundary. In the age of the internet revolution, many libraries provide the internet facility to the users for right information to the right user at the right time. Using Internet in libraries has a positive value. Students use the Internet to communicate not only with colleagues, but also with their instructors. Students and teachers can communicate with each other with the help of Internet (**Chickering, 1991**). It has an easy access to all information on the latest research reports from anywhere in the world. It helps researchers, teachers, students and institutions to disseminate information to more viewers worldwide through websites (**Molebash, 1999**). Internet has also enabled the growth of distance education, both

within nations and without international borders. It is for the benefits that these students, academic institutions and organizations use Internet as an integral part in improving the quality of education (**Ozgen, 1996**). The internet grants students access to vast amounts of information. It allows them to complete their assignments by copying and pasting different segments of information (**Galus, 2002**).

BACKGROUND:

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra (NIT), Haryana is a premier Technical Institute of the region. The institute started working as Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra in 1963. Like other Regional Engineering Colleges of India this institution too, had been a joint enterprise of the State and Central Governments. This Institute was conferred upon status of Deemed University on June 26, 2002. Since then it has been renamed as National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra and is a centrally funded Institute. Recently, the Institute had been declared as Institution of national importance by MHRD, Government of India.

The Institute started functioning in its present campus at Kurukshetra in 1965-66, Kurukshetra, steeped in history and mythology, is a place of great spiritual significance, where Lord Krishna, delivered the divine message of "Shrimad Bhagwad Gita". King Harshwardhana chose the place from where knowledge spread everywhere as his capital. It is one of the premier centres of pilgrimage attracting devotees in a steady stream all-round the year. Kurukshetra is a railway junction on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala section of the Northern Railway. It is about 160 kms. from Delhi. The Institute campus is about 10 kms. from Pipli, a well-known road junction on the Sher Shah Suri Marg and about 5km from Kurukshetra Railway station. NIT offers PG, UG and doctorate degree programmes in several disciplines of Engineering & Technology, Management and computer application.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Academics in developing countries are fast adapting to the Internet as a source of information for education and research. Some research reveals use of the Internet. **ILO (2010)** states that all respondents used the Internet for their project work and has an impact especially in the areas of quality of work, speed, time economy, and recency of materials. **Maharana (2010)** observed that about 40% respondents have been using Internet an average for 2-4 years for 2-4 h in a week. 49.46% students use e-mail "2/3" times a week. A majority of students (80%) have opinion that Internet is time saving and less expensive as compared to conventional documents. **Safdar (2010)** found that more than 50% students had access to internet at home for communication with friends, relatives and teachers for education and solving problems in internet use. **Salaam (2010)** found that the internet facility, e-mail, search engine, are accessible by 78.76% students and 56.25% students use search engine for academic purpose only. **Malik and Mahood (2009)** did a study and found that 59.5% students searched the web at home and 31% students used it once a day while 13.5% students used internet for a day. A large number of students (75%) used internet for academic and research work. 97% students liked to search Google search engine. **Parameshwar (2009)** conducted a study and found that a majority of the users have been using the Internet for two to four years. Slow speed, downloading problems, and lack of training are the major problems. **Smith (2007)** looked at South Africa, finding that lack of bandwidth was a major problem, and the range of electronic journals in the respondents' field of interest limited. **Mahajan (2006)** found that Internet has had a great impact on the academic environment. The researchers in sciences were used the internet facility provided by the university. **Fusilier (2005)**

in corporate user experience into the technology acceptance model and theory of planned behavior to predict intentions to use the internet among a sample of college students of India. **Ojedokun and Owolabi (2003)** The Internet for things like email. **Jone (2002)** in research carried out on the Internet and American life, found that college students use the internet more to communicate socially than they do for academic work. **Chang (2001)** did a research and found that the extensive use of internet by the students in the recent past, mostly about web-based databases, electronic journals and search engines.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- To know where is students get internet training.
- To know the frequency of Internet used by students.
- To know perfect location to use Internet by students.
- To know the purpose for using Internet.
- To know which type of internet resources used by students.
- To know which is frequently used search engine by students.
- To identify which Web site is used by the students under study.
- To discover the problems they encounter.
- To explore the satisfaction level of student with Internet.

METHODOLOGY:

The questionnaire survey method was used in this study. A structured questionnaire was designed and used for collecting the primary data. First, we define the population of study used in this paper. The population consists of the students of the NIT, Kurukshetra. The questionnaires were distributed among 100 students; the response rate was 80%. The questions concerned the use of the internet by students, the ease of access to information and the perceived quality of the information. Students who had used the Internet to access information were asked a series of more detailed questions about how and where they used the Internet and about septic search engines or sites consulted. The collected data is organized and presented in tabulated form by using percentage method.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDING:

Table 1: Internet Training

S. No.	Training provider	Response	Percentage
1	Provided by Library	-	-
2	Provided by Institute	-	-
3	Self instruction	54	67.5%
4	Trial and error method	15	18.75%
5	Guidance from colleagues and friends	11	13.75%
6	External courses	-	-
7	Any other place	-	-
	Total	80	100%

Table 1 presents that the majority of the students (67.5%) use internet by self instruction, 18.75% learn by trial and error method and 13.75% learn by guidance from colleagues and friends.

Table 2: Frequency of Internet Use

S. No.	Frequency	Response	Percentage
1	Daily	65	81.25%
2	2-3 time in a week	10	12.5%
3	Once a week	5	6.25%
4	Not specified	-	-
5	No response	-	-
	Total	80	100%

The current age is referred the age of the Internet, as it revolutionized the way people think, work and life in multiple directions all the time. Table 2 reveals that majority of the students (81.25%) use Internet daily. 12.5% of the students use the internet with 2-3 times in a week whereas 6.25% use it once a week.

Table 3: Time spent in a week

S. No.	Time spent	Response	Percentage
1	Less than 1 hour a week	-	-
2	2-4 hours a week	8	10%
3	5-6 hours a week	16	20%
4	7-9 hours a week	40	50%
5	10-20 hours a week	12	15%
6	Over 20 hours a week	4	5%
	Total	80	100%

Table 3 explores how much time students spent on internet per week. The large numbers of the students (50%) spend 7-9 hours per week, 20% spend 5-6 hours per week, 15% spend 10-20 hours per week, 10% spend 2-4 hours per week and 5% spend over 20 hours per week.

Table 4: Location of Internet Use

S.No.	Location	Response	Percentage
1	Internet Café	6	7.5%
2	Internet Lab	14	17.5%
3	Central Library	18	22.5%
4	Department	10	12.5%
5	Hostel	23	28.75%
6	Home	9	11.25%
	Total	80	100%

It is noted from table 4 that NIT, Kurukshetra students have access the internet at different location, result of the study exhibits that 28.75% of the students use internet at their hostel, whereas 22.5% visit Central library to use internet, 17.5% preferred Internet lab to use internet. Only 11.25% of the students use internet at their home. A least number of the students 6 (7.5%) go to Internet café to use internet.

Table 5: Purpose of Internet Use

S.No.	Purpose	Response	Percentage
1	Education	65	81.25%
2	Research purpose	56	70%
3	Communication	40	50%
4	Entertainment	47	58.75%
5	Download Software	25	31.5%
6	News	-	-
7	Sports	-	-
8	E-mail	-	-
9	Download Text	42	52.5%

In the above table 5, the students from NIT, KKR shows high-spirited pleasure to use of Internet for education (81.25%), research purposes (70%), and communication (50%). Even though NIT, Kurukshetra students have straightforward attitude towards the use of Internet. Internet access for the purposes noted above, with a different percentage.

Table 6: Use of Internet resources

S. No.	Internet Resources	Response	Percentage
1	E-Journals	50	62.5%
2	E-Database	40	50%
3	Lecture notes	0	0
4	E-Research Report	15	18.75%
5	E-Books	3	3.75%
6	News Paper/ Magazines	27	33.75%
7	Standard and Patents	-	-
8	Technical Report	-	-
9	E-Thesis and Dissertations	-	-
10	E-maps	-	-
11	Non Journal Article	32	40%

Internet is one of the main tools used to access resources today. Most students are highlighting to the Internet and its applications, particularly started to believe in their services. The result in the table 6 connotes that 62% students use e-journals to consult the relevant information for research work that are subscribed by NIT library. Whereas students has positive respond from Science to use of E-Database (50%), E-Research Report (18.75%), E-News Paper/ Magazines (33.75%), Non Journal Article (40%).

Table 7: Use of Internet Services

S. No.	Internet Services	Response	Percentage
1	E-Mail	80	100.00%
2	WWW	25	31.25%
3	Chatting	40	50%
4	FTP	0	0
5	FAQ	3	3.75%
6	Telnet	2	2.5%
7	Usenet	8	10%
8	List Services	6	7.5%
9	Archive	-	-
10	BBS	5	6.25%
11	Any other	0	0

It is visible from table 7 that all the students (100%) in the study use e-mail Internet services very frequently, although the students give the positive response to use the other internet services i.e. WWW (31.25%), Chatting (50%). Whereas the Internet services like FAQ, Tenet, Usenet, List Services and BBS are not used highly by the students. FTP, Archive and others mentioned in the study are not used by the any students.

Table 8: Favorite Search Engines

S. No.	Search Engine	Response	Percentage
1	Google	80	100%
2	Yahoo	38	47.5%
3	AltaVista	8	10%
4	Rediff	12	15%
5	Hotbot	9	11.25%
6	Sanook.com	-	-
7	MSN.com	-	-
8	Excite.com	-	-
9	Kapook.com	-	-
10	Khoj	15	18.75%
11	Lycos	17	21.25%

Search engines are the main instrument for finding information and it is clear from the result of the study table 8 that Google and the yahoo search engine is the favorite search engine by 100% and 47.4% respectively. Whereas some others reported that they use the Alta Vista (10%), Rediff (15%), Hotbot (11.25%), Khoj (18.75%) and Lycos (21.25%).

Table 9: Most Used Web Sites

S. No.	Website Type	Response	Percentage
1	General	20	25%
2	Discipline	50	62.50%
3	Recreational	10	12.50%
	Total	80	100%

Table 9 denotes that most of the students (62.50%) use discipline website for getting relevant information regarding the assignment, project work. The student also use General (25%) and recreational (12.50%) websites.

Table 10: Problem Faced by the Student

S. No.	Problem Faced	Response	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	0	0
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	14	17.5%
3	So much information on Internet	60	75%
4	The allotted time slot is insufficient	-	-
5	Downloading S/W takes more time	28	35%
6	Electricity failure	-	-
7	Privacy problem	-	-
8	URL Change	-	-

Table 10 presents the problem faced by the students while using the internet, 75% of the students face so much information available on internet, 35% face downloading S/W takes more time and 17.5% face problem in finding relevant information.

Table 11: Levels of satisfaction

S. No.	Satisfaction Level	Response	Percentage
1	Very Satisfied	72	90%
2	Somewhat Satisfied	-	-
3	Somewhat dissatisfied	-	-
4	Very dissatisfied	-	-
5	No Comments	8	10%
	Total	80	100%

The study purpose is to know the satisfaction level of the students with internet facilities, the table 11 depicts that 90% of the students are very satisfied of the Internet, whereas 10% respondents have no comments.

MAJOR FINDING OF STUDY:

- 1 It is clear from the result of the study that NIT does not have any policy to provide internet training to students whereas 67.5 % of the students learn to use Internet by self instruction.
- 2 All most all students (81.25%) used the Internet daily for their day-to-day information requirements.
- 3 It is evident from the data result in table 3 that half of the respondents (50%) spent 7-9 hours on to use Internet per week.
- 4 Majority of students (28.75%) access Internet at Hostel and Central Library (22.5%).
- 5 81.25% of the students use the Internet for education, followed by the research purpose with 70% students.
- 6 Study explicit that majority of students prefer to use Internet for e-journals (62.5%) and e-database (50%).
- 7 E-mail (100%) and chatting (50%) are the most used Internet services by students.
- 8 All the students (100%) based on the study prefer Google search engine, followed by Yahoo with 47.5% students.
- 9 The study denotes that most of the students (62.50%) use discipline website for getting relevant information regarding the assignment, project work.
- 10 75% of the students face so much information available on Internet, while 35% face downloading S/W takes more time.
- 11 90% of the students are very satisfy with the Internet facilities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION:

Today, the Internet has become an important tool in the lives of students; usually all that happens is through the Internet. For correct use of the Internet in higher technical education, there is a need to understand students' attitudes regarding the use of the same. It turns out that the Internet is important expertise for students. Most respondents are of the technology field. Students use the Internet mostly for educational and research benefits, rather than show a direct contribution and involvement in community. After discussion of the whole study, Author give some suggestions that should be implemented to improve the Internet services, provided by the Institutions. Institutes should have to maintain timely Wi-Fi Internet connection to eliminate the slow downloading software. There is need an Internet training and orientation program for proper use of Internet services and finding information by the students and Internet lab teacher can do this to give the proper guidance to the students in the Internet lab and workshop.

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