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Usage of Internet by College Students: A Survey

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Abstract:

The present study surveys and reports the usage of Internet by One Hundred Seventy Six Undergraduate Students of Arts, Commerce faculty of Babuji Avhad Mahavidyalaya, Pathardi. Observes that, the internet use is confined to general or recreational purposes and its potential in supporting curricular requirements has not been realized by the students. The use of Internet at college is being made by very few students and this needs to be increased. Also Internet facility should be extended to library, as it has become an important source of information, facilitating effective communication and being a major information retrieval tool.

Keywords: College library, Users, Use of internet, Information and communication technologies.

Introduction:

Internet has emerged as a powerful tool for modern libraries in providing information services. Internet is a network of distant, local, regional and national network. People and computers all linked together via cables, telephones and satellite. Today, the Internet plays a vital role in the teaching, research and learning process. It is assumed that the College students in India feel more dependent on the Internet for their class assignments and for the latest information of their subject areas than conventional resources of information. College teachers also feel a bit handicapped in updating their knowledge base quickly without using the Internet for their research and classroom teaching activities.

In the modern age, internet has emerged as a useful method for all age groups. In the past, its use was just limited to business but in the past few years or so, internet has become a popular method of learning among the students as well. There are various platforms available on the internet where students can not only learn but can enjoy their time as well

Benefit of internet is that you can opt for an assignment writing service if you find it difficult to attempt your assignment or homework. Students find it hard to write an assignment, essay, dissertation and many other type of research paper is not something new. That's why with the emergence of the internet, lots of assignment writing solution provider have come up and are offering their services to the students who have problem in writing the assignments.

Internet is also coming handy for the students in connecting with their friends and teachers. There are various social networking sites available on the internet where you can stay in touch with your friends and teachers. Moreover, some developers have also come up with some social networks that are especially dedicated to the students and teachers. You can also recommend these social networking sites in your institution to have better communication. With all that, internet is also being used by the institutions to teach the students in innovative ways by looking at the increasing interest rate of the students.

Literature review:

Many surveys have been conducted to access its use as a communication media and as a source of information within and outside India. A review of literature reveals that the teachers and the students are the most frequent users of the Internet. They use the Internet mainly for educational purposes rather than for entertainment. Becker (1998) conducted a study on the Internet use by 2,500 teachers from public and private schools of U.S. The study revealed that 90% of the teachers had Internet access. A majority of the teachers with 59% response had Internet access at home. A majority of the teachers (68%) used the Internet to find information resources for preparing their lessons. A majority of the teachers with 62% response used Web search engines to find information resources. Bavakutty and Salih (1999) conducted a study at Calicut University which showed that students, research scholars, and teachers used the Internet for the purpose of study, research and teaching, respectively. Laite (2000) surveyed 406 graduate and undergraduate students from Shippensburg University. The survey revealed that 57.6% of the undergraduate students used the Internet 1-2 times per week and another 37.1% used it 1-2 times daily. 54.7% of the graduate students used Internet 1-2 times per week and 37.7% used it 1-2 times daily. The survey showed that the most used Internet service was e-mail. 100% of the graduates and undergraduate students used e-mail services. Jagboro (2003) conducted a case study of Internet usage in Nigerian universities. The objective of this study was to evaluate the level of utilization of the Internet for academic research at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Questionnaires were administered to postgraduate students spanning art and science based programmes. The results from the analysis of the responses showed that the respondents ranked the use of research materials on the Internet fourth (17.3%). However, respondents who used the Internet ranked research materials second (53.4%) to e-mail (69.9%). The study concluded that the use of the Internet for academic research would significantly improve through the provision of more access points at departmental and faculty levels.

Panda and Sahu (2003) conducted a study of the engineering colleges of Orissa. The study revealed that 50% of the engineering colleges used dial-up connection. A majority of the colleges used the Internet to provide on-line demonstrations. Hanauer (2004) surveyed a diverse community college to assess the use of the Internet by the students. The survey showed that although all the students surveyed had 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. Mishra, Yadav and Bisht

(2005) conducted a research study to learn the Internet utilization patterns of undergraduate students at the G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. The findings of the study indicate that a majority of the students (85.7%) used the Internet. The findings of the study also showed that 61.5% of the males and 51.6% of the females used the Internet for preparing assignments. A majority of the respondents i.e. 83.1% male and 61.3% female respondents indicated that they faced the problem of slow functioning of Internet connections. Robinson (2005) examined the Internet use among African-American college students. The respondents were surveyed by using the 43-item questionnaire to determine the frequency of Internet. The results of the study indicated that most of the African-American college students (76%) had used the Internet for more than three years. The use of the Internet for most African-American college students occurred at school or at the work place with 49% of the responses at home. 47% of the responses indicated they spent an average of two hours per day on-line. A small percentage of the students spent 5-6 hours per day on the Internet. 43% of the students used the Internet primarily to learn and find school resources.

Babuji Avhad Mahavidyalaya, Pathardi (BAMP) was established by Parth Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Pathardi in 1966 with affiliation to Pune University. It offers under graduate and post graduate classes in nine sub faculty. The study is based on the responses to a questionnaire by the undergraduate students (2016-17) studying in the Arts & Commerce faculty. Total Two Hundred questionnaire were given to related students but all of these only one hundred and seventy six student fill responded this research.

Characteristics of Study Population:
The study population comprised of male and female undergraduate students of Arts & Commerce hailed either from rural or urban area. They spent relatively more time for attending classes, studying and watching TV than in using library, attending practical's, Internet use and listening to audio /video.

Table 1: Characteristics of Study Population: (N=176)

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Faculty:		
Arts	92	52.27
Commerce	84	47.72
Sex:		
Male	113	64.20
Female	63	35.79
Domicile:		
Rural	101	57.38
Urban	75	42.61
Knowledge of Computers:		
Yes	176	100
No	--	
Average Time Spent (Hours Per Week)		

Attending the Classes	28.64	
Studying	21.03	
Watching TV	11.39	
Using Library	19.96	
Attending To Practical	08.17	
Internet Use	13.23	
Listening To Audio/Video	09.50	

Use of Internet:

The study revealed that three-fourths of the students made use of the Internet. Thirty Five Percent of them were using it since six months. Twenty Eight Percent had an experience between 6 To 12 Months.

Majority were using the Internet for the purpose of sending and receiving e-mails other important purpose were to know about Internet, visit website for reading newspaper & entertainment. The potential of Internet in terms of teleconferencing, online learning, searching catalogs of libraries, accessing e-documents and accessing e-journals had not been recognized by many. (See Table 2)
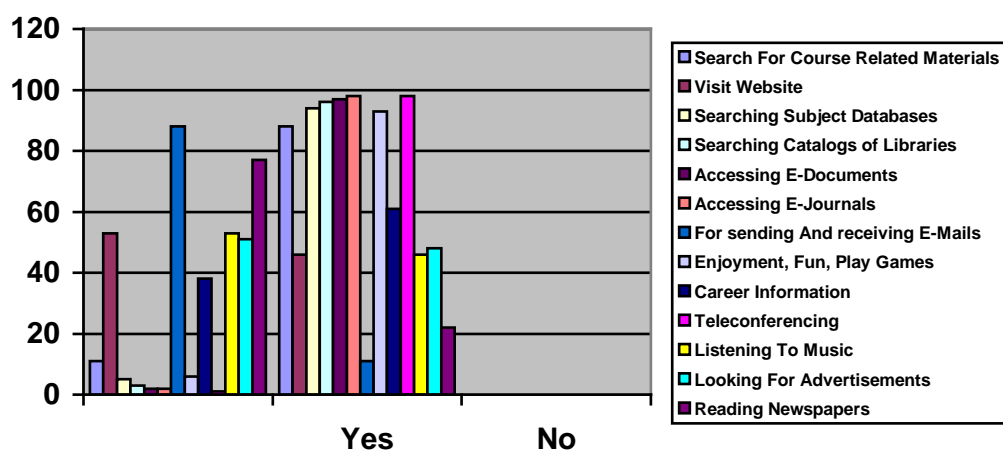
Table 2: Use of Internet

Response	Number	Percentage (%)
Use:		
Yes	135	76.70
No	41	23.29
Length of Use:		
Less Than 6 Months	48	35.55
6-12 Months	39	28.88
12-24 Months	27	19.99
More Than 24 Months	21	15.55
Place for Accessing Internet:		
Home	11	8.14
College	08	5.92
Cyber Café	106	78.51
Home And College	03	2.22
Home And Cyber Cafe	05	3.70
College And Cyber Cafe	02	1.48
Frequency of Using Internet:		
Daily	47	34.81
Two Times A Week	26	19.25
One Time A Week	18	13.33
Once In Two Week	10	7.40

Once In A Month	03	2.22
As And When Required	31	22.96

Table 3: Purpose of Using Internet (N=135)

Purpose	Yes	No
Search For Course Related Materials	15 (11.11)	120 (88.88)
Visit Website	72 (53.33)	63 (46.66)
Searching Subject Databases	08 (5.92)	127 (94.81)
Searching Catalogs of Libraries	05 (3.70)	130 (96.29)
Accessing E-Documents	03 (2.22)	132 (97.77)
Accessing E-Journals	03 (2.22)	133 (98.51)
For sending And receiving E-Mails	119 (88.14)	16 (11.85)
Enjoyment, Fun, Play Games	09 (6.66)	126 (93.33)
Career Information	52 (38.51)	83 (61)
Teleconferencing	02 (1.48)	133 (98.51)
Listening To Music	72 (53.33)	63 (46.66)
Looking For Advertisements	69 (51.11)	66 (48.88)
Reading Newspapers	104 (77.03)	31 (22.96)

When asking the question about purpose of using internet, 88% students write the purpose of sending and receiving emails. 55% Students use internet for visit various websites. Accessing of E-Documents and E-Journals Students were very rare. 77% Students read the newspaper on internet while 23% students have no interest of reading newspaper on internet.

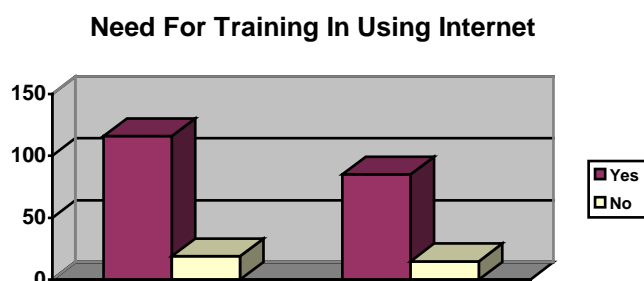**Table 4: Places of Accessing Internet Resources and Tools**

Internet Resources And Tools	Home(N=11)		College (N=8)		Private/Commercial (N=106)	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Email	08	72.72	08	100	95	89.62
Mailing Lists	06	54.54			70	66.03
Usenet/Newsgroup	07	63.63	04	50	48	45.20
FTP	05	45.45			35	33.01
Gopher	04	36.36			35	33.01
Archie	04	36.36			38	35.84
WAIS	04	36.36			22	20.75
Telnet	06	54.54			53	50
World Wide Web	10	90.90	08	100	106	100
Internet Search Engines	09	81.81	08	100	98	92.45

When asking the question about places of Accessing Internet Resources and tools, 89.62%. Students use Internet through private or commercial places while only 11.00% Students use Internet in home and college.

Table 5: Accessing Internet

Accessing Internet	Number	Percentage (%)
Method:		
Through Friends	39	28.88
Attending Courses At Cyber Café	35	25.92

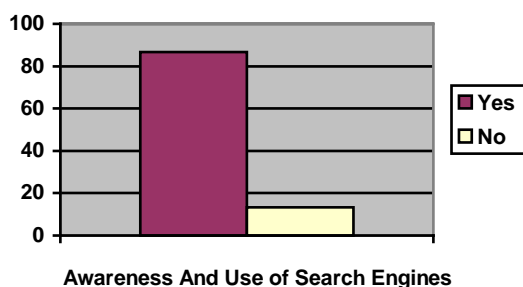|		
Formal Training	30	22.22
Self-Learning	31	22.96
Accessing Internet:		
On Own	118	87.40
Delegate It To Somebody	17	12.59
Measures Taken:		
View on The Information	55	40.74
Download The Information	32	23.70
Take a Print Copy	48	35.55
Training In Using Internet:		
Yes	91	67.40
No	44	32.59
Need For Training In Using Internet:		
Yes	116	85.92
No	19	14.07

Need For Training In Using Internet

Above table shows that 67.40% students have get training in using Internet while 32.59% Students have not require any training. 40.74% Students search Internet for view on the Information while 23.70% Students download the information & 35.55% student take a print copy.

Table 6: Awareness And Use of Search Engines (N=143)

Search Engines	Number	Percentage (%)
Awareness:		
Yes	117	86.66
No	18	13.33
Search Engines:		
Alta Vista	31	24.8
Google	119	88.14
Hotmail	74	5.92
Indya	21	16.8
Khoj	5	4.00
Rediff	49	39.2
Search	1	0.8

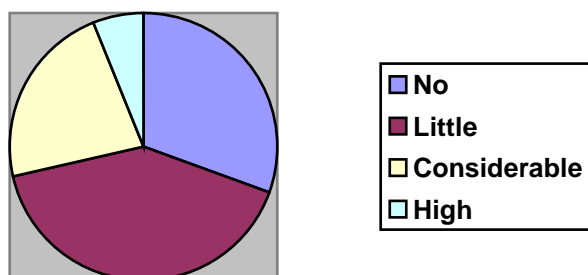| Sify | 19 | 15.2 |
Yahoo	98	78.4
Askteens	2	1.6
Hotbot	15	11.11

Awareness And Use of Search Engines

When asking the question about awareness and Use of Search Engines, 86.66% Students have aware about it. 88.14% Students use Google Search Engine for getting information. 78.4% Students use Yahoo for information.

Table 7: Extent of Difficulty In Accessing Internet (N=135)

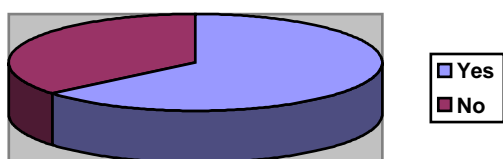| Difficulties	No	Little	Consid erable	High
Obtaining Connection	41 (30.8)	55 (40.7)	30 (22.2)	9 (6.7)
Opening Web Page	34 (25.2)	73 (54.1)	26 (19.2)	2 (1.5)
Browsing	51 (37.8)	36 (26.6)	32 (23.8)	16 (11.8)
Searching	40 (29.6)	45 (33.3)	42 (31.1)	8 (5.9)
Downloading	43 (31.8)	44 (32.6)	30 (22.2)	18 (13.3)
Surfing On Net	57 (42.2)	37 (27.4)	28 (20.7)	13 (9.62)
Reliability	46 (34.1)	50 (37.0)	31 (22.9)	8 (5.9)
Slow Accessibility	33 (24.4)	42 (31.1)	49 (36.3)	11 (8.1)

**Extent of Difficulty In Accessing
Internet**

Majority of Students have little extent of difficulty in Accessing Internet, obtaining connection there are 30.8% students who have no difficulties while 6.7% have high difficulty.

Table 8: Internet Facilities And Services To Be Offered By Library

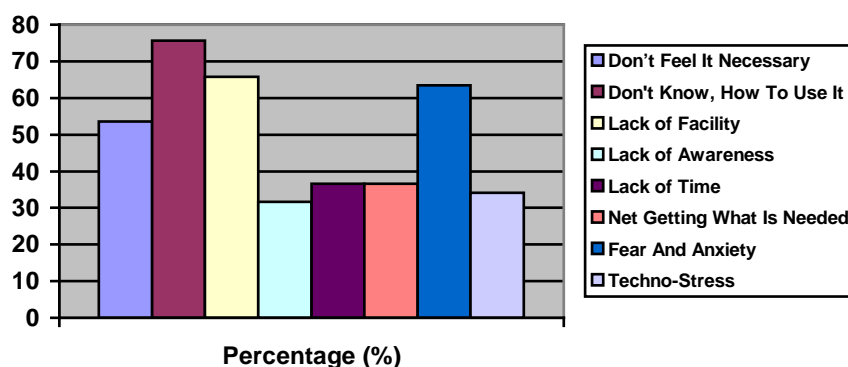| Services To Be Offered	Number	Percentage (%)
Response:		
Yes	167	94.88
No	9	5.11
Services To Be Offered		
Course Related Materials	124	91.85
Discipline Oriented Websites	107	79.25
Searching Subject Databases	93	68.88
Searching On-Line Public Access Catalogs (OPAC)	55	40.74
Accessing E-Documents	71	52.59
Accessing E-Journals	58	42.96
Sending And Receiving E-Mails	79	58.51
Recreation And Entertainment	65	48.14
Career Information	90	66.66
Conferencing	51	37.77
Online Learning	73	54.07
Downloading Programs/Files/Images	73	54.07
Newspapers	81	59.99
Electronic Document Delivery	82	60.74

**Internet Facilities And Services To
Be Offered By Library**

When asking the question about Internet facilities and services offered by Library, 94.88% Student said yes and 5.11% Student said No any facility of Internet in Library.

Table 9: Reasons For Not Using Internet (N=41)

Reasons	Number	Percentage (%)
Don't Feel It Necessary	22	53.6
Don't Know, How To Use It	31	75.6
Lack of Facility	27	65.8
Lack of Awareness	13	31.70
Lack of Time	15	36.58
Net Getting What Is Needed	15	36.58
Fear And Anxiety	26	63.41
Techno-Stress	14	34.14

Above Table indicate that reasons for not using Internet by Students. Unknown of using Internet, lack of facilities, Lack of awareness, Lack of time, fear and anxiety are same major reasons for not using Internet.

Conclusion:

The study was exploratory in nature and it was found that on an average the students spent more hours for attending classes, studying and watching TV compared to using library, attending practical's, using Internet, and listening to audio/radio. Internet was being used by a large number of undergraduate students of which many were just beginners having less than one year of experience and accessed Internet basically at cyber cafe. This is a very positive

indication considering that Internet has made its appearance in this part of the country very recently. The commercial cyber cafes have taken initiative in introducing the Internet to this region. The students were aware that Internet could be utilized for various purpose, but at present the use is restricted to general or recreational purposes, primarily it is being used for sending and receiving e-mails, visiting websites, chatting, enjoyment, fun and playing games. The Internet resources and tools were also not being exploited except for WWW, a few search engines, e-mail and mailing lists. Students have identified the Internet based resources through personal communication, attending training programs, using search engines and browsing the sites regularly. The Internet has emerged as the single most powerful vehicle for providing access to unlimited information. The Internet is an inseparable part of today's college educational system. The dependency on the Internet and its services is increasing day by day and the users of academic colleges too are depending more and more on the Internet for their various educational purposes. The Internet facility has enabled the teachers and the students to enhance their academic excellence by providing them the latest information and access to the worldwide information.

The information on the Internet is not usually available in an organized way and the users are unable to get pin- pointed information from the Internet. In order to make the Internet more beneficial, the library staff who have acquired a good deal of efficiency in the collection, organization and retrieval of information should feel duty-bound to see that the users are able to obtain right information at the right time. For this, they should organize and classify the information on a Website in such a way that the users are able to find easily the information they need for their studies and research purposes. The library services supplemented by Internet services can prove a great boon to the users in getting the right information at the right time. The present study has concentrated on the most frequent users of internet in Babuji Avhad Mahavidyalaya Pathardi i.e. the students.

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