Use of Internet among Under Graduate Students in Agricultural College Bapatla

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ABSTRACT
This study bapatla was carried out in order to determine usage of Internet by the undergraduate students of Agricultural college of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Data was obtained from 30 undergraduate students of the institution with the use of a questionnaire. The study revealed that majority of the students belong to the range of 7.1-8.0 overall grade point average. It is also revealed that most of the respondent parents were government employees (56.66%). The study indicated that most of the respondent parents have annual income greater than one lakh (56.66%) and place of education is from urban (70%). Regarding computer knowledge at school revealed that most of the students are having knowledge at their school level (80%). Majority of the students (90%) are having personal email, and majority (63.33%) of them gained computer knowledge by self-learning. Most of them using internet through own computers (63.33%.) with respect to experience 46.66per cent had 3-5 years of experience in internet usage, among the internet services study material (83.33%) has been chosen as the best internet service and 40.00 per cent of the respondents feel fully satisfied with the internet facility, (70.00%) respondents browse Google products. With respect to factors contributing to improving internet usage was to provide increase bandwidth in order to speed up the network connection because majority of them expressed that there was a slow speed access to internet.

Key words : Electronic mail, Internet, Power point,World Wide Web.

The convergence of information and communication technologies illustrated that Internet is increasingly having more influence on all aspects of the society as it has become an integral part of the daily lives of many people. With technology advancing and improving rapidly in the world, educators need to make an effort to keep up with the new technology. One of the fastest growing areas of technology is in communication, where the Internet has grown exponentially over the past decade. The Internet is a "network of networks" across the United States and throughout the World. It is a combination of the E-mail system and World Wide Web's multimedia browsing system. The internet is now widely used as a communication channel. It is a twentieth century information resource leverage medium designed for everyone. Data on the internet are interchangeably called online information, web resources, e-resources and so forth. Many research groups have set up websites and gopher sites summarizing their areas of study. As a result, the internet has become one of the most important channels of communication of our time, a powerful tool in searching for, retrieving, disseminating and improved utilization of information. Internet is a cost effective medium of communication which can help in meeting the complex information needs of professional students and has important implications in higher education With this view the present study was conducted on the use of internet among under graduate students in Agricultural College of Bapatla. The main objective of this study is to analyze the patterns of Internet use, the Internet skills of the undergraduate students, the perceived impact of the Internet on their academic efficiency, problems faced by them while using the Internet and to suggest some remedies which may help under-graduate students to use the internet in a more effective way.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The target population of this study was the full time undergraduate students of agricultural college, Bapatla. A sample of 30 participants was

chosen using the simple random sampling technique. A questionnaire was prepared to collect data of under graduate students. The collected data was analysed, interpreted and meaningful conclusions was drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It was inferred from the table1 that most of them falls under the range between 7.1-8.0 (53.32%) followed by 8.0-8.5 (29.90%) and greater than 8.5 (16.66%) regarding overall grade point average and (56.66%) of their parents working as government employees followed by farming (29.99%) and private/business (19.99%) and most of their parents have annual income more than one lakh (56.66%) followed by below one lakh as their annual income (43.33%).

From the Table 2 it is clear that most of the respondent place of education is from urban (70%) followed by 30 per cent belong to rural area. With regard to computer knowledge of most of the students (80%) are having knowledge at their school level and (20%) are not having computer knowledge at their school level, majority of the students (90%) are having personal email and (10%) are not having email. Similar results were reported Olubanke and Babalola (2012).From this study we also came to know that majority were from urban back ground so almost all the students might have come from good educational intuitions. Now a days all most all schools are having computer courses even from elementary level.

From Table 3 It is evident that (9.99%) has received the formal training in computer knowledge through private institutes some learned from friends (26.66%) and majority(63.33%) of them gained computer knowledge by self-learning. Regarding the means of using internet most of the respondents are using internet through own computers (63.33%), followed by use mobile for browsing internet (46.66%), use library internet service (16.66%) and remaining 10 per cent go for private net cafes for browsing internet As far as the experience in internet usage majority of them are having (46.66%) 3-5 years of experience in internet usage followed by (30%) are having more than 6 years in browsing internet. and (23.33%) are having 1-2 years. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Fayaz (2011).The interview

shows that the perceived relative cost of Internet use and the high cost of training courses compel students to resort to learning Internet skills on their own or from their friends

From Table 4 it can be inferred that among the internet services study material (83.33%) has been chosen as the best internet service followed by social networking being used by (76.66%) respondents, mail checking (73.33%), Ppt presentations (66.66%), competitive and entrance exams with (63.33%), software and games (56.66%) responses, banking (36.66%) and portals with (13.33%).

It was connoted from the table 5 that type of file format used by the respondents in case of document/text files showed that majority of them (30%) were using the frequently followed by most frequently used (26.67%),occasionally used (16.67%) and rarely used and not used contribute (13.33%). With respect to audio files it is clear from this study that majority of the respondents were using mostly frequently (40%) followed by rarely used (26.67%), frequently used (16.67%), occasionally used (13.33%) and not used (3.33%). With regard to videofiles the majority of the respondents expressed most frequently used (33.33%). Followed by frequently used (26.67%), rarely used (20.00%).occassionally used (16.67%). And not used (3.33%). And With regard to power point majority of them expressed rarely used (30%) followed by not used (20%), frequently used (23.33%), occasionally used (16.67%) and most frequently used (10%). With regard to pdf files the majority of the respondents expressed not used (36.67%) followed by occasionally used (23.33%), rarely used (20%), frequently used (13.33%) and most frequently used (6.67%). With respect to Files in post script form majority of them expressed rarely used (30%) followed by not used (26.67%), frequently used & occasionally used (16.67%) and most frequently used (10%). With regard to Files in compressed format (ZIP) majority of them expressed rarely used (33.33%) followed by not used (26.67%). occasionally used (23.33%), frequently used (10%) and most frequently used (6.67%).

It can be depicted from the table 6 that 40.00 per cent of the respondents feel fully satisfied with the internet facility, followed by 30.00 per cent

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on overall grade point average,parental occupation and annual income.

S No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A	OGPA	7.1-8.0	16	53.32
		8.0-8.5	9	29.90
		>8.5	5	16.66
B	Parental occupation	Government	17	56.66
		Private /business	6	19.99
		farming	9	29.99
C	Annual income	Below 1 lakh	13	43.33%
		> 1 lakh	17	56.66%

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on education place,computer knowledge and e-mail.

S No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A	Place of Education	Rural	9	30%
		urban	21	70%
B	Computer knowledge	Yes	24	80
		No	6	20
C	e-mail	Yes	27	90
		No	3	10

Table 3. Distribution of respondents based on formal training.

S No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A	Formal training	Private	3	9.99
		Self	19	63.33
		Friends	8	26.66
B	Means of internet usage	Own Computer	19	63.33
		Mobile	14	46.66
		Library	5	16.66
		Net cafe	3	10
C	Experience In Using Internet	1-2	7	23.33
		3-5	14	46.66
		>6	9	30

feel less satisfied, 23.33 per cent feel dissatisfaction with the internet facility and 6.66 per cent have not expressed any response regarding the service and majority of the respondents (86%) stated that increasing bandwidth is required, followed by (63.33%) suggested for extending times, (50.00%) for conducting training programmes regarding internet knowledge ,(36.66%) providing internet in the departments ,(20.00%) for training students in library and (10.00%)suggested for providing internet at concessional rates. are considered as the factors for improving internet usage in Agricultural College Bapatla

Table 7 showed that 70.00 per cent respondents browse Google products, followed by 56.66 per cent use facebook, 30.00 per cent visit

Table 4. Distribution of respondents based on purpose.

S No.	Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
1	Study material	25	83.33
2	Ppt presentations	20	66.66
3	Mail checking	22	73.33
4	Banking	11	36.66
5	Social network	23	76.66
6	Software's and games	17	56.66
7	Portals	4	13.33
8	Competitive and entrance exams	19	63.33

Table 5. Distribution of respondents based on type of file formats you frequently use.

File formats		Not used	Rarely used	Occasionally used	Frequently used	Most frequently used
Document/text files	Frequency	4	4	5	9	8
	Percentage	13.33	13.33	16.67	30.00	26.67
Audio files	frequency	1	8	4	5	12
	percentage	3.33	26.67	13.33	16.67	40.00
Video files	frequency	1	6	5	8	10
	percentage	3.33	20.00	16.67	26.67	33.33
Power point	frequency	6	9	5	7	3
	percentage	20.00	30.00	16.67	23.33	10.00
Pdf files	frequency	11	6	7	4	2
	percentage	36.67	20.00	23.33	13.33	6.67
Files in post script form	frequency	8	9	5	5	3
	percentage	26.67	30.00	16.67	16.67	10.00
Files in compressed format (ZIP)	frequency	8	10	7	3	2
	percentage	26.67	33.33	23.33	10.00	6.67

Table 6. Distribution of respondents based on level of satisfaction and factors for improving internet use.

S No	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
A	Level of satisfaction	Less satisfied	9	30.00
		Fully satisfied	12	40.00
		Dissatisfied	7	23.33
		Not response	2	6.66
B	Factors	Extending times	19	63.33
		Increasing bandwidth	26	86.66
		Concessional rates	3	10
		Internet training in library	6	20
		Internet in the departments	11	36.66
		Training awareness programmes	15	50.00

Table 7. Distribution of respondents based on sites frequently used.

S No	Site	Frequency	Percentage
1	Google products	21	70
2	Angrau	9	30
3	Face book	17	56.66
4	YouTube	8	26.66
5	Yahoo	4	13.33
6	Amazon	2	6.66
7	Flipkart	2	6.66
8	Wikipedia	3	10
9	IRCTC	2	6.66

Table 8. Distribution of respondents based on problems encountered.

S No	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	23	76.66
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	4	13.33
3	Overload of information in the internet	5	16.66
4	Takes too long to view and download	16	53.33
5	Privacy problems	4	13.33

Table 9. Suggestions for improvement.

Sl No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage
1	Internet should be provided for 2nd and 3 rd year students in the hostels	20	66.67
2	Teachers should also suggest various sites from which the relevant information can be sought apart from restricting to library	23	76.67
3	Strict surveillance on restricted sites	25	83.33
4	Signal strength and band width should be increased	27	90.00
5	Internet should be provided 24x7 facility	16	53.33

ANAGRAU,26.66 per cent use youtube, yahoo with 13.33 per cent responses ,Wikipedia with 10.00 per cent responses, amazon, IRCTC and flipkart stands 6.66 per cent responses with each. It was connoted from table 8 that problems arise while browsing the internet mainly come from five factors slowness of the network or the slow accessing speed is indicated by 76.66 per cent respondents, followed by 53.33 per cent respondents are of the opinion that it takes too long to view web pages /download pages,16.66 per cent respondents indicated that there is an overload of information in the internet,13.33 per cent respondents found that it is difficult to get relevant information, and 13.33 per cent faced the privacy problems. The study conducted earlier by Fayaz (2011) also indicates near similar results with respect to problems encountered while browsing internet.

From table 9 it is clear that for improving the internet facility majority of the respondents expressed the suggestion that Signal strength and band width should be increased (90%) followed by Strict surveillance on restricted sites (83.33%),

Teachers should also suggest various sites from which the relevant information can be sought apart from restricting to library (76.67%), Internet should be provided for 2nd and 3 rd year students in the hostels (66.67%) and Internet should be provided 24x7 facility (53.33%).

Conclusions

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 educational system. The dependency on the Internet and its services is increasing on a daily basis and the university community are depending more and more on the Internet for their various educational purposes. The Internet facility has enabled the Professors and students to enhance their academic excellence by providing them the latest information and access to the worldwide information. 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.

LITERATURE CITED

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