EXPLORING SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS' INTERNET USE PATTERN

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The present study aimed to investigate senior secondary students' Internet use pattern. The study was meant to determine the purpose to which students make use of the Internet, how often they use Internet and how do they search information on the Internet. A close ended questionnaire was designed and distributed to 220 students (140 male students and 80 female students) selected randomly from a sample of 2200 students of class XI and XII enrolled in two senior secondary schools affiliated to Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The study found that majority of the students (83%) use Internet. Most of the students learned Internet usage skills from their family, relatives and friends. Majority of students make use of the Internet everyday. Students mostly use Internet for entertainment purpose. However, some students use Internet for completing their assignments, projects and school work. Social Networking is found as the most preferred Internet service among students. The study revealed that majority of the respondents preferred Internet when they need information, whereas only 23.12 percent respondents preferred to visit library for getting required Information. The findings of the study have important implications for school authorities and librarians. Librarians should create awareness and provide training programmes for maximizing the use of Internet for education and learning purposes.

Keywords: Internet use pattern; Senior Secondary Schools; Aligarh Muslim University

INTRODUCTION

The Internet may be defined as a global network of computers connected together over a large distances. The Internet helps people to communicate from one place to another and also enables people to share messages, ideas, knowledge and experiences. Today, the Internet is excessively used by people in many ways for variety of purposes including entertainment, communication, online gaming, shopping, social networking and education. The development of the Internet would be meaningless if it is not used appropriately in education (Muniandy, 2010). The Internet is one of the most important educational tools and it is being used in education to supplement traditional instructional methods. Internet, as an essential universal source, is used to publish, store, retrieve and disseminate information.

Advent of Internet made it possible to access information from all over the world. But increasing quantity of information available via the World Wide Web has posed the challenges for students and researchers to find relevant and authentic information.

RESEARCH PROBLEM AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

The rapid growth of the Internet has had a great effect on education and students' school life. All the students including researchers, post-graduate, graduate, senior secondary and secondary level students use Internet for various purposes. But it is not clear how do senior secondary students use and access the information on Internet, why do they use it whether for education purposes or other purposes (entertainment, gamming, shopping, time passing and social networking) and what type of E-gadgets they use for accessing the Internet? Many studies have been conducted to know the use of Internet among the undergraduate, postgraduate students, research scholars and faculty members. But no study has been conducted to explore the pattern of Internet use among the students of senior secondary schools, particularly in Aligarh Muslim University AMU). Therefore, the present study was carried out to explore the pattern of Internet use among the students of senior secondary schools for seeking answers of the following research questions:

1. Do senior secondary students make use of the Internet?
   If they make use of internet, what are the hpurposes of using the Internet?
2. How frequently do they use the Internet?
3. How much time do they spent on Internet?
4. How do they search information on the Internet?
5. What type of information do they search on the Internet?

The present study is an attempt to answer these questions by investigating senior secondary students' Internet use pattern. The study was meant to determine the purpose to which students make use of the Internet, how often they make use of the Internet and how do they search information on the Internet. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the frequency of Internet use
2. To find out the purpose of using the Internet.
3. To know the Internet services they use most.
4. To analyse students' perceptions about the usefulness of Internet
5. To examine the students activities on the Internet.
6. To examine the problems faced by students when they use Internet
7. To know students' preferred choice for accessing information: (library or Internet).

The respondents of the present study include 11th and 12th class students of Saiyyid Hamid Senior Secondary School (Boys) and Senior Secondary School (Girls) of AMU, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of related literature is one of the essential components of a new research topic. It gives an overall view of what has been done by other researchers in the same field of the study. Several studies have been conducted to know the Internet use pattern of undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars and faculty members. Some studies were also conducted in different parts of world which have examined the Internet use pattern among the students of Senior Secondary level. The review of some selected studies is presented in the following section. Puspita and Rohedi (2018) conducted a descriptive quantitative study to know the impact of Internet use among the students. Using a random sampling technique, 120 students were selected as the respondents for the study. The findings of the study showed that 68.33 percent respondents use the Internet for social media, while 41.67 percent respondents use it for online gaming purposes. Tarimo and Kavishe (2017) conducted a

survey on Internet access and usage by secondary school students in Morogoro Municipality, Tanzania. The results show that 87.6 percent respondents use Internet for playing games and downloading music, while 82 percent respondents use Internet for academic purposes. Ahmad &Rafiq (2016) carried out a study on accessibility and usability of Internet among university students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The study findings revealed that majority of the students have their own PCs/Lap-tops and accessed internet at home, followed by university libraries and computer labs. Students used Internet mostly for entertainment, learning, communication and keeping themselves up-to-date.

Bafakih et al. (2016) conducted a survey on Internet use among Middle and High School Students in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The aim of this research was to assess the situation of internet addiction among the students aged 12-16 in the KSA. The result showed that respondents' internet usage pattern was similar to studies conducted in many countries in the world and researchers believe that understanding how to guide the use of Internet especially by youth is very important. Ayub et al. (2014) conducted a study to examine the use of Internet among the students of social sciences, sciences, engineering, agriculture and computer sciences in Malaysian Institutions of Higher Education. The results show that computer science students use the internet more frequently (5.61 hours per day) as compare to students of other disciplines. Findings of a study by Fase and Aladeniyi (2013) on Internet use among students of faculty of Sciences in two Nigerian Universities revealed that majority of respondents (89%) use internet for education purposes and the respondents used the internet facilities located outside the campus. Saifan and Bohari (2012) conducted a survey on Internet usage to know the difference of Internet use between Arab and Non-Arab students. The study indicated difference pattern of internet usage among the Arab and Non-Arab students. The study has found that internet is the major source of information for all the students.

Khan (2012) conducted a research on the use of Internet among the teachers and research scholars in Hawassa University. Findings of the study revealed that most of the respondents preferred the Google search engine for finding required information. All the respondents were using the Internet for sending emails and almost all the respondents used internet for research purposes. Nazim (2008) carried out a survey on Information searching behavior in the Internet age: A users' study of Aligarh Muslim University. The author found that the academic staff spent more time on the Internet than the students and research scholars. Most of the respondents learned the Internet by self-instruction and some of them learned to use the Internet through discussions with colleagues and friends. Ozkisia and Topaloglua (2015) conducted a study to examine the level of the university students' knowledge of internet and online applications. A survey including questions about more than one online application was used to identify the knowledge of the students. The questionnaires were distributed to 200 students studying at Trakya University, Kesan Yusuf Capraz School of Applied Disciplines during the academic year 2014-201. The results show that the students know most of the applications related to the internet and most of them spend 3-4 hours a day on the Internet at home.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For conducting any research, systematic planning of study is most vital upon which the whole process of research study depends. The present study was carried out to explore the pattern of Internet use among the students of senior secondary schools affiliated to AMU. There are nine schools affiliated to AMU, and it wasnot possible to select all nine schools of AMU due to time and financial constraints. Therefore, two senior secondary schools namely Saiyyid Hamid Senior Secondary School (Boys) and Senior Secondary School (Girls) were selected as sample for the present study. These two schools have been included keeping in mind that they have large strength as compared to other schools of AMU. Only students of class XI and XII were selected because they might be aware of the

importance of Internet services. The total strength of students was 1400 in Saiyyid Hamid Senior Secondary School (Boys) (700 each in class XI and 700 in class XII) and 800 in Senior Secondary School (Girls) (400 in class XI and 400 in class XII). A total of 220 students (140 male students and 80 female students) were selected randomly from a sample of 2200 students of class XI and XII enrolled in the above mentioned senior secondary schools ofAMU. A close ended questionnaire was designed and distributed to 220 students (140 male students and 80 female students), out of which 178 duly filled in questionnaire were received.

RESULTS

Out of total 220 questioners distributed to the respondents, 178 questionnaires were received with a response rate of 80.9 percent. Further, it may be observed that out of 110 questionnaires distributed among the students of class XI (70 male and 40 female), 90 questionnaires were received (62 from male and 28 from female students). Out of 110 questionnaires distributed among the male and female students of class XII, 53 questionnaires were received from male and 35 from female students. Gender and class- wise response rate was shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Response rate of the respondents

Class	Questionnaire distributed			Questionnaire received		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
XI	70	40	110	62	28	90
XII	70	40	110	53	35	88
Total	140	80	220	115	63	178

Use of Internet among the students

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they use Internet or not. The table 2 shows that out of 178 respondents, 147 (82.58%) respondents use the Internet, whereas 31 (17.42%) were not using the Internet. Hence, it can be interpreted that majority of the students of senior secondary schools use the Internet.

Table 2: Use of Internet

Use of Internet	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	147	82.58
No	31	17.42
Total	178	100

Reasons of not using the Internet

The respondents (those who do not use the internet as indicated in Table 2) were asked to indicate the reasons of not using the Internet. 15 (48.39%) respondents indicated that they do not have Internet access devices, 8 (25.81%) respondents indicated that they do not use Internet due to the lack of Internet facility. Lack of knowledge and slow speed are other reasons for not using the Internet as indicated by 3.22 and 9.68 percent respondents' respectively.The reasons are shown in figure 1.

Table 5: Time spent on Internet

Time spent on Internet	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 1 hour per day	09	9.78
1-2 hours	43	46.73
2-3 hours	19	20.66
3-4 hours	15	16.30
More than 5 hours	6	6.52
Total	**92**	**100**

Purposes of Internet use

As shown in table 6, about 32 percent of the respondents use Internet for entertainment purpose. School work, projects and assignments, information searching and news reading were identified as other purposes of using Internet as indicated by 19.73, 16.32, 8.16 and 4.08 percent respondents respectively.

Table 6: Purposes of Internet use

Purposes of Internet use	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
To do school work	29	19.73
For searching information	12	8.16
Entertainment	47	31.98
Project/ Assignment	24	16.32
News	6	4.08
No Particular purpose	18	12.14
Others	11	7.48
Total	**147**	**100**

Knowledge and use of Search Engines

When respondents were enquired about their knowledge of Search Engines, more than 80 percent indicated that they have knowledge of search engine, whereas 20 percent respondents indicated that they don't have knowledge about search engines. Google is the most popular search engines as indicated by 77.55 percent respondents, followed by Yahoo as it is used by 22.45 percent respondents. Students do not use other search engines. The results are shown in table 7.

Table 7: Use of Search Engines

Search Engines	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Google	114	77.55
Yahoo	33	22.45
Ask Jeevas	00	00
MSN	00	00
AOL	00	00
Altvista	00	00
Leycos	00	00
Total	**147**	**100**

Types of E-gadgets used by the respondents

It may be observed in the table 8 that 61.91 percent respondents use smart phones, whereas, laptop is used by 21.77 respondents. Desktop and Tablets are used by 10.9 and 5.44 percent respondents respectively. Hence it can be interpreted that majority of the respondents use smart phones for accessing the Internet.

Table 8: Types of E-gadgets used by the students

Types E-gadgets	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Smart Phone	91	61.91
Laptop	32	21.77
Desktop	16	10.9
Tablet	8	5.44
e-book Reader	0	00
Totals	**147**	**100**

It may be observed in table 9 that respondents mostly (44.90%) use social networking services on the Internet, which is followed by gamming (14.28%), online shopping (12.24%), brows for fun (10.20%), online chatting (9.52%) and sending e-mails (6.81%). From the table 8 it is clear that maximum students make use of the Internet for social networking.

Table 9: Use of Internet services

Internet services	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Sending e-mails	10	6.81
Online Chatting	14	9.52
Online Shopping	18	12.24
Social Networking	66	44.90
Gaming	21	14.28
Brows for fun	15	10.20
Others	03	2.04
Total	**147**	**100**

Respondents' perceptions and opinion about the usefulness of the Internet

The respondents were asked to indicate their perceptions and opinion about the usefulness of the Internet. As shown in the table 10, 42.86 percent respondents think that Internet is wastage of time, whereas, for 8.16 percent respondents Internet keeps them away from their family and friends. Some respondents also indicated the positive use of Internet as it helps to improve academic performance (21.08% respondents), helps to gain general knowledge (12.93% respondents) and helps to do homework and study (14.97 respondents).

Table 11: Respondents' perceptions and opinion about the usefulness of the Internet

Usefulness of Internet	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Wastage of time	63	42.86
Helps to improve academic performance	31	21.08
Its keeps away from family & friends	12	8.16
Quality of inf. on Internet is poor	00	00%
Helps to gain general knowledge	19	12.93
Helps to do homework/study	22	14.97
Total	**147**	**100**

Data presented in table 12 reveal that 39.13 percent respondents faced problems while they use Internet because of slow downloading, followed by technical problems (28.26%), lack of print out facility (10.86%), copying (8.70%), and lack of guidance (6.52%). it is clear from the analysis of data that slow downloading is the major barrier in the use of Internet.

Table 12: Barriers in the use of Internet

Problem face by the respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Technical problems	13	28.26
Lack of guidance	03	6.52
Slow downloading	18	39.13
Copying	04	8.70
Lack of print out facility	05	10.86
Others	03	6.52
Total	**46**	**100**

Respondent's preferred choice of accessing Information

Further, the respondents were asked to indicate their preferred choice for finding information. As shown in figure 3, majority of the respondents (76.88%) indicated that they prefer to use Internet when they need information, whereas only 23.12 percent respondents indicated that they visit library for finding the required information. It is clear from the analysis of data presented in the figure that a great majority of the respondents prefer to use Internet for their information requirements

Figure 3: Respondent's preferred choice of accessing Information
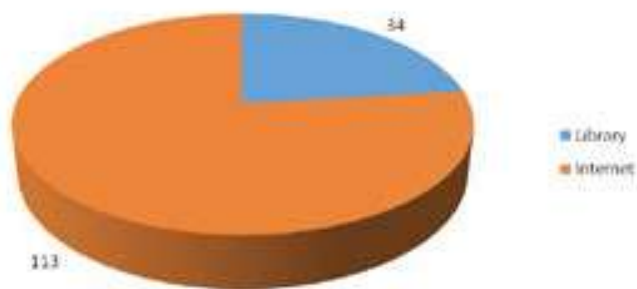
SUGGESTIONS

Based on the opinion given by the respondents and findings of the study, the following suggestions have been made by the investigators.

1. The study revealed that significant percentage of the respondents use Internet for entertainment purposes, they don't aware about how Internet is important for education. So school authorities should take initiatives for raising the awareness among the respondents about the importance of Internet in education.
2. The study shows that a considerable percentage of the respondents do social networking and gamming on the Internet. Although there are many educational activities available on Internet but they don't concentrate on these activities. So

school authorities should make aware the respondents about the educational activities.
3. A considerable percentage of respondents don't use the Internet and some respondents faced problems while using the Internet. School authorities should conduct orientation and training programmes for the students.
4. The study results show that majority of the respondents opined that using Internet is simply a waste of time. They are unaware about the importance of Internet. Hence, awareness is to be created among the students.
5. The study found that majority of the respondents preferred the Internet when they need Information. But in library, there is a lot of information available which may be useful for their study. So, library and school authorities should aware the students about the usefulness of library materials as well.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to identify the use of Internet among the students of Senior Secondary Schools in AMU. It has been found that majority of the respondents use the Internet mainly for entertainment purposes. Most of the respondents used Internet from more than 3 years. Majority of the respondents use smart phones for accessing the internet, followed by laptop and desktop and most of the respondents spent 1-2 hours daily on the Internet. Usual activities of respondents on Internet are social networking and gamming. The present study clearly shows that users are very much interested in using Internet as they spent time on it for entertainment and social networking purposes. It is found from the present study that there are very few respondents use Internet for educational purposes.

The Internet provides a plethora of information across various disciplines, including education. The amount of educational resources available to students is voluminous and they are continuously growing. It

is important for students to search, identify, evaluate, and use these information sources for their educational purposes (Muniandy, 2010). It is recommended here that the students may identify these information resources and use them appropriately whenever needed. Students should take the advantage of the ability to use information from the Internet for their learning activities. Although students use the Internet extensively, they need to balance the nature of the use between social networking and academic uses. By learning to use the academic-related resources from the Internet, students will be able to complement the information found with the resources from their school learning. This will enable them to be good learners of the Internet.

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