ATTITUDE OF RURAL AREA COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS USAGE OF INTERNET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, PALAYAMKOTTAI, TAMIL NADU – A STUDY

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ABSTRACT: -

Internet is the most important tool for our day-to-day life. But some rural areas are not connected by internet, so that people are not able to access the internet. Many arts and science colleges have internet facilities. This survey mainly focuses on the rural area students' awareness and usage of internet in Libraries with special reference to St.John's College, Palayamkottai. The results show that, 77.06 % students are accessing the internet from cyber cafe, 45.87 % of the students are accessing the internet weekly, 78.89 % of the students are sharing the information with friends, 36.69 % of the students are using the whatsapp social media, and 27.52 % of the students are using the internet for study-related work. This study concludes that government and telecommunication companies must improve the internet facility in the rural areas and colleges should install sufficient computers for accessing the internet the welfare of the students.

INTRODUCTION

Internet is the world's biggest network of communication. In India, after 1990s is slowly using the internet across the country. After 2000, due to rapid growth of information and technology field, internet is the most important part of our day-to-day life. Its features include e-mail, mailing lists, Telnet, WWW, file transfer, vast information resources, interest group membership, interactive collaboration, multimedia display, breaking news, real time broadcasting, shopping opportunities and resource sharing etc. College students are normally using the internet rapidly *via* mobile phones and cyber cafe. This study attempts to analyse the usage of internet by the rural area college students.

INSTITUTE PROFILE

St.John's College was established in 1878. The College now offers 9 aided UG Courses, 5 aided PG Courses and also research programmes in various departments. The Library was

established on 1962. The present Accession Register started with the same year. The distinctive feature of the library is that it is considered a department of academic support services. The emphasis of the library is on the increase of its holdings. The central library is housed in a ground floor at the entrance of the college which accommodates more than sixty thousand books and subscribed 38 journals. With the grants from the UGC and annual budgetary provisions of the college the library has built up collection representing various disciplines for all levels of its users. The library also receives reading materials as gifts from individuals and institutions including international missions. It offers special services like reprographic and bibliographic services and Internet browsing services. It is equipped with Internet facilities and is also preparing for library automation. The Library can accommodate more than 180 students at a time.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Connell[1] revealed that the current study aimed to describe college student's internet and other technology use, specifically student's frequency of online access from various locations, students' technological device use and students' frequency of doing various online activities. Results indicate that the college students internet and technology usage varies by student and parent factors, particularly student gender and student race. Results also reveal that students are using communication technology to communicate with parents. Frequency of communication with parents on the phone was the most important factor related to parent student relationship quality.

Sivaraj[2] described about this study to elaborated the various aspects of the internet use, such as frequency of the internet usage , methods used for accessing the internet resources , the frequently used places for the internet access , purpose for the internet search and use of the internet services , ways to browse the internet, problems faced and satisfaction level of the students , faculty members and research scholars with the internet facilities provided at the Bannari Amman Institute of Technology.

Adika[3] analyzed internet use among faculty members of universities of Ghana. Research results showed that in spite of the benefits of the internet, its use among faculty was still very low. The main reasons that this were lack of access of internet and the need for the training. It was suggested for the university authorities must take immediate steps to provide general access points to faculty through computer laboratories and also organize training and refresher session for faculty to get updated information *via* internet for teaching and research.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Problem for the present study is "Attitude of Rural Area College Students towards Usage of Internet with Special Reference to St.

John's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu – A Study"

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This survey has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- ➢ To find the awareness of internet usage among rural area college students
- ➢ To find out the purpose for which the internet is being used by the students
- ➢ To find out the most-often used type of e-mail & search engines by the students.
- ➢ To find out the problems faced by the students while using the internet.
- ➢ To make suggestions to improve the awareness of internet usage among rural area college students.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- • The data is collected only from St.John's College, Palayamkottai
- • The data is collected only from rural area undergraduate and post graduate students

RESEARCH DESIGN

A questionnaire-based survey was utilized. It consisted of 10 questions to determine the level of internet usage, type of e-mail & problems encountered with search engine while accessing the internet, improving the awareness of usage of internet among the rural area college students. The sample consisted of 109 rural area college students at St. John's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu. The following statistical methods were used for analysis and interpretation in the study applying the percentage analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected through the questionnaire was organized, tabulated and interpreted by using simple statistical methods. The investigation has selected 200 filled questionnaires for the analysis and interpretation of data.

Table 1: **Gender-Wise Distribution**

S.No	Gender	Category		Total	Percentage
		UG	PG		
1	Male	73	29	102	69.39
2	Female	36	09	45	30.61

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that 69.39 % of male students participated in this study followed by 30.61 % of female students.

Table 2: **Residential Status of Respondents**

S.No	Area	Category		Total	Percentage
		UG	PG		
1	Rural	88	21	109	74.14
2	Urban	25	13	38	25.85

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 shows that 74.14 % of students are from rural area, followed by 25.85 % of students from urban area.

Table 3: **Place of Accessing the Internet**

S.No	Location	Respondents	Percentage
1	Home	05	04.58
2	College	20	18.34
3	Cyber Cafe	84	77.06
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that 4.58 % of students are accessing the internet from home, followed by 18.34 % from college and 77.06 % are from cyber cafe.
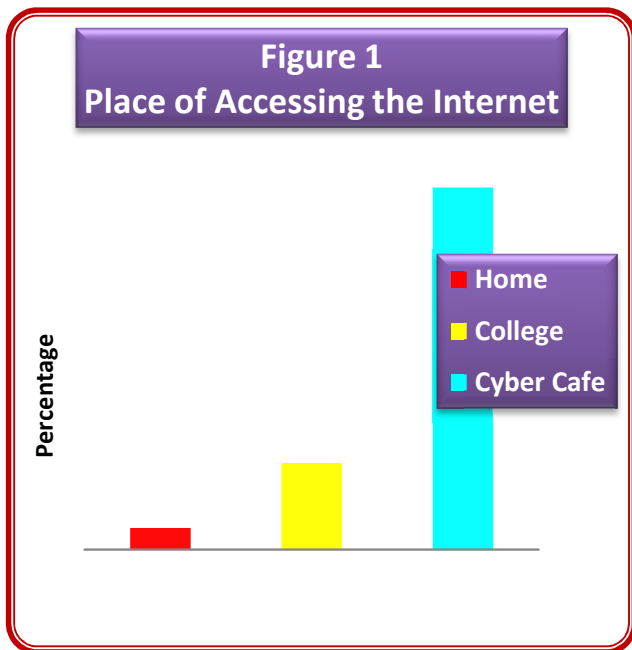

Figure 1
Place of Accessing the Internet

Table 4: **Frequency of Internet Usage**

S.No	Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	19	17.43
2	Weekly	50	45.87
3	Fortnightly	40	36.69
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows that 17.43 % of students are accessing the internet daily, followed 45.87 % weekly and 36.69 % fortnightly.

Table 5: **Sharing the Information through Internet**

S. No.	Sharing the Information with	Respondents	Percentage
1	Professors	15	13.76
2	Friends	86	78.89
3	Parents	08	7.33
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 shows that 13.76 % of the students are sharing the information with the professors, followed by 78.89 % with friends and 7.33 % of with parents.

Table 6 **Sharing the Information through E-Mail**

S. No.	Category	Respondents	Percentage
1	Gmail	69	63.30
2	Yahoo	40	36.69
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 shows that 63.30 % of the students are sharing the information through Gmail and 36.69 % through yahoo mail.

Table 7: **Using the Social Media through Internet**

S. No.	Media	Respondents	Percentage
1	Facebook	30	27.52
2	Whatsapp	40	36.69
3	Twitter	25	22.93
4	Others	14	12.84
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 shows that 27.52 % of the students are using the Facebook social media, followed by 36.69 % Whatsapp, 22.93 % are Twitter and 12.84 % other social media blogs.
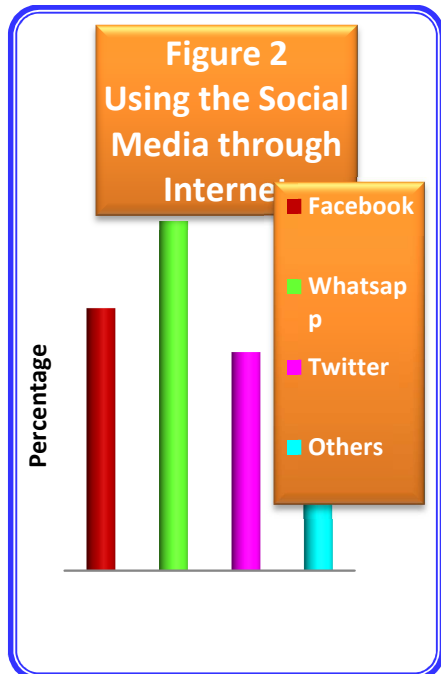

Figure 2 Using the Social Media through Internet

Table 8: **Purpose of using the internet**

S.No	Purpose	Respondents	Percentage
1	Study Related Work	30	27.52
2	Sharing the Information	25	22.93
3	Entertainment	34	31.19
4	To Pass a Time	20	18.34
	Total	109	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 8 shows that 27.52 % of the students are using the internet for study related work, followed by 22.93 % are for sharing the information, 31.19 % are for entertainment, and 18.34 % for a time-passing.

Findings of the study

Based on the analysis of the survey the following findings are arrived at:

1. 69.39 % of the male students participated in this study.

2. 74.14 % of the students are from rural area.

3. 77.06 % of the students are accessing the internet from cyber cafe.

4. 45.87 % of the students accessing the internet weekly.

5. 78.89 % of the students are sharing the information with friends.

6. 63.30 % of the students are sharing the information through Gmail.

7. 36.69 % of the students are using the whatsapp social media.

8. 27.52 % of the students are using the internet for study- related work.

SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

As per the review of literature cited 1, 2 and 3 also found that lack of computers in the rural areas and colleges for accessing the internet. This survey shows that the Students face several problems while accessing the internet. Some of the rural areas are not connected to internet, so that students are not possible to access the internet frequently. In all colleges connected the internet in library or separate places, but sufficient number of computers are available. So all the students in colleges accessing the internet not in equally. This study concludes that government and telecommunication companies improve the internet facility in the rural areas and colleges should install sufficient computers for accessing the internet for the welfare of the students. The college officials, head of computer department and librarian should initiate training to rural area students for accessing the internet.

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