

USE OF INTERNET BY THE STUDENTS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF
ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN JALGAON: A CASE STUDY



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this study is to analyze the use of the Internet and related issues among the students of six Engineering colleges of Jalgaon city. A well structured questionnaire was distributed among the 300 students of all the Engineering colleges of Jalgaon city. The response rate was 80%. This study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of Internet use such as frequency of internet use, most frequently used place for internet use, purposes for which the Internet is used, problems faced by the users and satisfaction level of the users. It was found that the Internet has become a vital instrument for learning process of

these respondents.

KEYWORDS

Internet, Students, Engineering College.

INTRODUCTION:

Information is very crucial for growth and development of the country. It is one of the most important factors that influence sustainable competitive environment in modern information era. Information is not evenly distributed among the people in the society due to various reasons such as social, economic, political, regional etc.

The need of the hour is to bridge the information gap and for it, it is essential to know and understand the flow of information. To empower the student in every section we as a librarian should train them properly to access the pin point information from the house of information reservoir that is the Internet. Students' are the most important as they are the pioneer of the nation and thus it is essential to develop them with each aspect of modern life. Information Technology and Communication is an important part of today's life. So it is necessary to train individual for how to use internet.

Internet, the World Wide Web has been considered as the largest digital library in recent years. On Net considerable amount of information is freely available for fast communication. People all over the world use the web to find all sort of information. The web is inherently distributed and the data on the web is stored in numerous sources. Often these sources have their search capabilities. The Internet can provide access to essentially unlimited resources of information not conventionally obtainable through other means.

Today, Engineering colleges are playing an important role in imparting technical education. The Engineers, who are the outcomes of these colleges, require the latest and pinpointed information in their respective fields. Due to the high cost of Engineering information resources, developing countries cannot provide these resources to their users. But the Internet with its advantages, pave the way for the developing countries to access information at a very low cost.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

As Engineering colleges provide Internet facility to both the teachers and the students and expect them to utilize it for educational purposes, it is necessary to conduct a study to determine whether Internet is used for academic activities and how the Internet has influenced the academic efficiency of the target user. The study also explores the satisfaction level of the users with Internet facility provide by the Engineering colleges under study. It is, therefore, important to find out up-to what extent they are utilizing this facility.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The purpose of the present study is to explore access and use of the internet by the students. The following objectives were made:

- a) To know the awareness and use of Internet by students.
- b) To find out the various purposes for which internet is used
- c) To identify the levels of satisfaction in the use of Internet
- d) To find out the most preferred Search Engine used by students.

e)To identify various problems while using Internet.

METHODOLOGY

To conduct the study , survey method and questionnaire tool for data collection were used for primary data , questioners has been distributed among the students of Engineering college in Jalgaon city directly following random sampling. The secondary data are collected from various books, journals and records of Engineering colleges. The size of the sample chosen is 300. However, 240(80%) valid questionnaires of them responded and the same used for analysis

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The scope of the study is limited to the students of six Engineering colleges located in Jalgaon city at graduate level.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The user satisfaction and their attitude relating to Internet facility available in six Engineering colleges located in Jalgaon city has been as depicted here. The data concerned with the personal information of the respondents, and the frequency of visiting Internet center, most favored search engines, facilities and problems faced by users in six Engineering colleges located in Jalgaon city while accessing Internet are drawn as follows-

Table: 01 Experience of Internet use

Internet use	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 6 months	25	10.42
6 months-1 year	15	6.25
1-2 years	30	12.50
2-4 years	170	70.83

Table -01 show that 170 (70.83 %) of the students have 2-4 years of experience in using the Internet, followed by 1-2 years of experience in using the Internet with 30 (12.50%) response. Whereas 25 (10.42%) of the students have 6 months - 1 year of experience in using the Internet, and 15 (6.25%) of the students started using the Internet for less than six months.

Table: 02 Location of Internet use

Location of Internet use	No. of Respondents	Percentage
At College- Internet lab	42	17.50
At Home	14	5.83
At Institution Library	48	20.00
At cyber cafe	8	3.33
At Other Place (Cell Phone, Laptop through Wi-Fi)	128	53.33

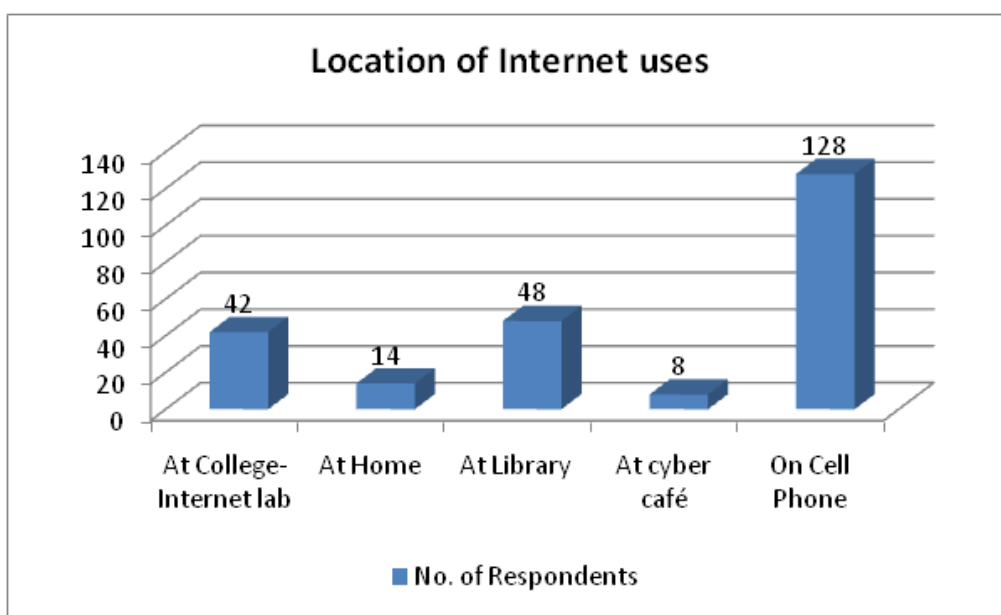


Table 2 shows that out of the total responses, 128(53.33%) respondents choose other places to access the Internet i.e. on laptop through Wi-Fi & On Cell Phone, 48 (20%) respondents use Internet in their institution library and 42 (17.50%) respondents have Internet access at their college Internet lab, 14(5.83%) access the Internet at their homes and the remaining 8 (3.33%) respondents access Internet at cyber cafe

Table: 03 Frequency of Internet Use

Frequency of Internet Use	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily	195	81.25
2-3 times a week	10	4.17
2-3 times a month	19	7.92
Once in a month	16	6.67

From the table -03 it has been found that 195 (81.25%) respondents use internet daily, 19 (7.92%) respondents use internet 2-3 times a month, 16(6.67%) respondents use internet once in month and 10 (4.17%) respondents use internet 2-3 times a week.

Table: 04 Methods of Learning Internet Skills

Methods of Learning Internet Skills	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Trial and error method	86	35.83
Guidance from colleagues and friends	62	25.83
Training from college	10	4.17
Self instruction	26	10.83
External course	56	23.33

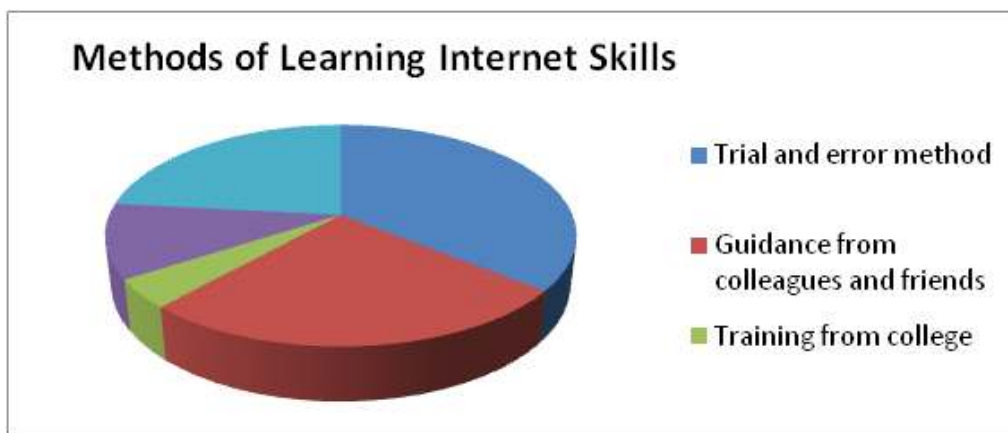
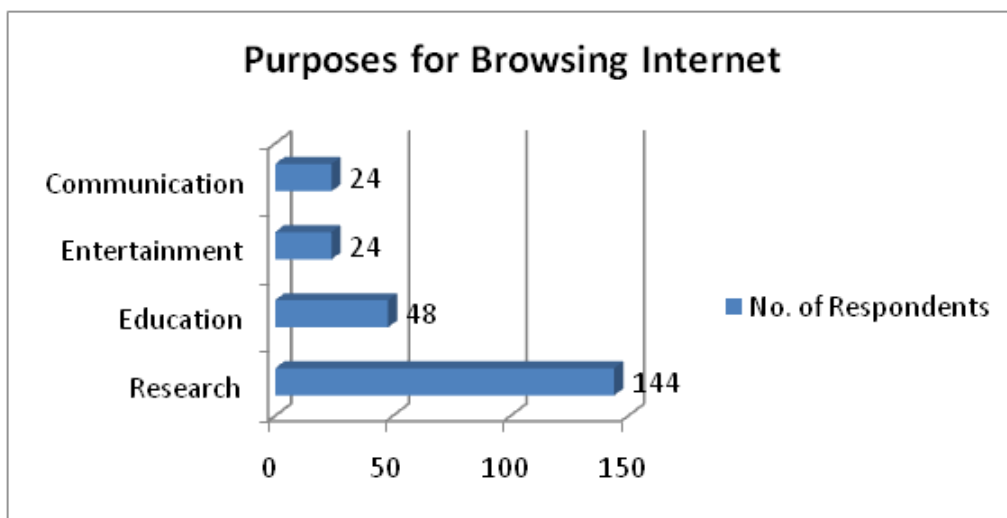


Table 04 shows that 86 (35.83%) respondents have learned internet through trial and error method, 62(25.83%) respondents have learned internet by taking guidance from colleagues and friends, 56(23.33%) respondent have learned by external course, 26(10.83%) respondents have learned through self instruction method and 10(4.17%) respondents have learned by attending training from college.

Table: 05 Purposes for Browsing Internet

Purposes for Browsing Internet	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Research/ project work	144	60.00
Education	48	20.00
Entertainment	24	10.00
Communication	24	10.00



Tables 05 shows that a majority of the respondents purposes is for browsing i.e. 144(60%) for research / project work, 48(20%) respondents is browse for education purpose, 24(10%) respondents is browse for entertainment & communication.

Table: 06 Use of Internet resources

Internet resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Technical Reports	132	55.00
E-books	123	51.25
E-journals	110	45.83
Databases	92	38.33
Conference Proceedings	89	37.08
Theses and Dissertations	77	32.08
Standards and Patents	52	21.67

Table 06 shows that 132(55%) of the respondents use the internet for consulting technical reports, 123(51.25%) consult e-books, 110(45.83%) consult e-journals, 92(38.33%) use database , whereas 89(37.08%) use conference proceeding, 77 (32.08%) use theses and dissertations and 52(21.67%) use standards and patents.

Table: 07 Frequencies of Use Search Engines

Search Engines	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Google	198	82.50
Yahoo search	27	11.25
MSN	3	1.25
Alta vista	2	0.83
Ask.com	6	2.50
Any other	4	1.67

Table 07 shows the use of Search Engines in this study, 198(82.50%) of the respondents use Google search engine, whereas 27 (11.25%) use Yahoo search engine, 6(2.50%) use Ask.com, 3(1.25%) use MSN search engine. Beside cited above all, there are some other search engine 4 (1.67%) also use.

Table: 08 Benefit of Internet over Conventional Documents

Benefit	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Easy to use	232	96.67
More Informative	200	83.33
Time saving	208	86.67
More useful	216	90.00
Less expensive	176	73.33
More preferred	224	93.33

Table 08 reveals that more than 80% of the respondents feel that in comparison to conventional document the internet is easy to use 232 (96.67%) ,more preferred by 224(93.33%) respondents, 216(90%) more useful, 208(86.67%) time saving, more informative 200(83.33%) and respondents acknowledge that it is less expensive compare to conventional documents.

Table: 09Satisfactions with Internet Facilities

Satisfaction with Internet Facilities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Fully	70	29.17
Partially	77	32.08
Least satisfied	93	38.75

Table 09 shows the satisfaction level of internet facilities provided in the college 93 (38.75%) respondents are least satisfied with facilities, whereas 77 (32.08%) respondents are partially satisfied and 70 (29.17%) respondents are fully satisfied with the facilities provide in the college.

Table: 10 Problems Facing While Using Internet

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Slow access speed	163	67.92
Difficulty in finding relevant information	48	20.00
Overload of information on the Internet	24	10.00
It takes too long to view/download pages	5	2.08

Table 10 shows that slow access speed is the main problem faced by 163(67.92%) of the respondents, secondly 48(20%) faced the difficulty in finding relevent information, thirdly 24(10%) faced the overload of information on the internet, lastly 5(2.08%) it takes too long to view/ download pages

FINDINGS

Follwing findings are derived from the students of Engineering colleges in Jalgaon city.

- Majority of (70.83 %) the students have 2-4 years of experience in using the Internet,
- Most of the (53.33%) respondents choose other places to access the Internet i.e. on laptop through Wi-Fi & On Cell Phone, and (20%) respondents use Internet in their institution library
- It has been found that majority of the (81.25%) respondents use internet daily,
- More than one third of the respondents (35.83%) have learned internet through trial and error method,
- Majority of the respondents browse (60%) for research / project work,
- 55% of the respondents use the internet for consult technical reports, 51.25% consult e-books, 45.83% consult e-journals, 38.33% use database
- Majority of the (82.50%) respondents use Google search engine in this study.
- More than 96.67% of the respondnets think that in comparison to conventional documents the internet is easy to use
- 38.75% of the respondents are least satisfied about the provided internet facilities
- Most of the respondents say that slow access speed is the main problem.

SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions below help to render better service and fulfill the academic pursuits of the students of Engineering colleges. These are as follow:

- Few respondents have suggested that the timings of the Internet section should be extended.
- Most of the respondents said that they should be given internet access training at the beginning
- Respondents should be trained on the Internet Search Strategies which will in turn enhance their research on the Internet.
- The Internet facility should be extended to the hostels and rooms.
- Few respondents have suggested to provide more computers with latest specifications, so that users can use Internet and related services.
- The e-resources should be widely advertised and promoted so as to make them aware of this facility. For promotion of e-resources, some posters may be displayed in the library.
- Printers should be made available in the Internet section of the colleges, so that the respondents can get print outs of their study material and other important documents at nominal rates.
- Efficient technical staff should be present in the Internet section for expert advice.
- Students should be made aware about rules and regulations and cyber laws concerning the field

CONCLUSION

The Internet has emerged as the most powerful tool for access to unlimited information. It is clear from the study that majority of the respondents prefer the internet as one of their source of information. It is found that the Internet has become a vital instrument for research and learning process of these respondents. According to most of the respondent they should be given internet access training at the first year. This study advises the colleges to organise user awareness programmes on internet and to arrange training programs on the Internet Search Strategies which would in turn enhance their research and get pin pointed information from Internet. The result of the survey also provides information about the benefits of the Internet over conventional documents. Today, many users require assistance to know what information is available on the Internet, and also need assistance to access it effectively and economically. Library professionals can play the role for the Internet users in the 21st century just as they have done for the users of printed information in the 20th century. Consequently, librarian must be aware of users' knowledge, and how they seek information in imperative develop a valuable collection to improve the library facility and services.

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