

A Survey on Internet Access and Usage among Agriculture Students of DKS College of Agriculture & Research Station (DKSCARS), Bhatapara (C.G.)

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Abstract

Present study was carried out to investigate Internet access and usage by the agriculture students of DKS College of agriculture & research station, Bhatapara. 230 questionnaires were distributed to all B.Sc. agriculture students of Bhatapara. A total of 180 questionnaires were returned which all were usable. The access points for usage of internet among the undergraduates are mostly at college Library and their own smart phone. 52.78% of students access internet daily, however 57.78% of them access internet more than 1 hrs daily. The study also showed that the students make use of the internet for academic, chatting, email, social media and update their information. However they face some problems such as Interruption of Internet access, slow connectivity and downloading, Difficulty in finding relevant information, Interruption of electricity facility and other related issues of usage Internet.

Key Words: Internet, Internet use, Agriculture students, Bhatapara, DKSCARS.

1. Introduction

21st century in India is the era of digital India. Technologies for the dissemination of information plays vital role in every human & social life. In this context the study of internet use among agriculture students of DKSCARS, Bhatapara was work out with specific objectives. Agriculture in India is primary sector and 65% of population livelihood is depending in it. In India 63 SAU (State Agriculture University) is running under ICAR. All SAU have their own library and every student have been using to access internet for his research, extension and teaching. Every technology has their own merits and demerits. Internet usage has the potential to improve the quality of education. The Internet revolution is not just limited to finding information but also to fostering relationships that bring people together. According to Dryli & Kinnaman (1996) the Internet enables students to find information and experts, as well as allowing users to think critically and creatively, become collaborative and cooperative, and solve problems.

The Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur was established in 1987 and now having it is 16 constitutes colleges in different districts of Chhattisgarh. DKSCARS, Bhatapara was inaugurated by Dr. Raman Singh in the years 2012 at Aalesur farm. Danveer Dau Kalyan Singh had donated 1600 acre of farm to University for Teaching, Research & Extension work. DKSCARS Library is equipped with 1. More than 4000 books collection 2. More than 1200 books online access in agriculture subject 3. CeRA online journals 4. Library Automation through Koha software 5. Internet facilities 6. Four Desktop systems & one LED screen 7. Online access of Krishikosh, Krishiprabha, e-course in agriculture, etc.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to know the Internet access and usage by the agriculture students of DKSCARS, Bhatapara. The specific objectives are as follows:

- i.** To analyse the access of Internet by the agriculture students.
- ii.** To observe the frequency of use of the Internet.
- iii.** To know the mode of Internet facilities.
- iv.** To Identify and rank problems encountered by the students in their use of Internet.

3. Review of Literature

Adekunmisi, Ajala & Iyoro (2013) found that majority of the respondents were Internet literate. It further revealed that the most used Internet facilities are the e-mails, web pages, search engines and chatting for communication, academic activities and for sourcing of information. Problem faced frequent loss of signal, high cost of browsing and slow speed of internet etc.

Agbo & Igwebuikwe (2016) revealed that all the undergraduate students are aware of the internet. It also discovered that majority make use of the internet often. The study also showed that the students make use of the internet for learning purpose, sending of e-mail, entertainment/recreation and chatting among others. It was also discovered that internet use has a very high impact on the academic excellence of the students.

Kaur & Manhas (2013) Results showed that all the respondents make frequent use of the Internet because they have access either at college or at home. The survey revealed that the majority of the respondents, i.e. 65.6%, access the Internet from college or their workplace. More than 75% of the respondent use the Internet services mainly for educational and research purposes.

Mohd Ayub, Hamid & Nawawi (2015) found that on average, the participants accessed the Internet 4.48 hours per day. There were also significant differences in the time spent using the Internet among students in different fields of study, with computer science students spending more time online (5.61 hours per day) than the others. In terms of Internet use for academic purposes, students in social sciences, agriculture and computer sciences scored the highest.

Wijetunge (2015) revealed that they often depend on search engines, Wikipedia, classmates and lecturers for information. The study found that a few undergraduates never used e-resources or never took the help of friends and family, librarians, library collections or personal collections.

4. Methodology

The study is based on questionnaire method. A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data from the agriculture students. The population used in this study was the agriculture students of DKSCARS, Bhatapara. A total of two hundred thirty (230) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to all B.Sc.(Ag.) students. 90% (180) questionnaires were completed and collected back from the respondents by the researchers. The collected data were tabulated and then analyzed with the application of Statistical Tools. The study was conducted in session 2016-17.

5. Results and Discussion:

Table 1: Gender

(n=180)

Particular	No. of student	Percentage
Boys	116	64.44
Girls	64	35.55
Total	180	100

Table 1 shows demographic feature of students at DKSCARs students during 2016-17. In particular session 116 boys and 64 girls were studying in different years. The total students were 180.

Table 2: Sources of Internet

(n=180)

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Smart phone	142	78.88
Laptop	89	49.44
Library	155	86.11
Cybercafé	02	1.11

Note: Multiple responses received by respondents.

Table 2 shows that the students use the Internet through smart phone, laptop, library desktops and cyber as per their convenient. It is observed by the table that 142 students use Internet through their smart phone, 89 use internet through in laptop, 155 use in library desktop and only 02 students use internet at cyber.

Table 3: Frequency of Internet Use

(n=180)

Frequency of Use	Frequency (180)	Percentage (100)
Daily	95	52.78
Weekly	11	0.61
Fortnightly	29	16.11
Monthly	45	25.00

Table 3 shows the respondents' frequency of use of the Internet. 52.78% (95) of the respondents browse the Internet daily, 25.00% (45) use internet weekly, 0.61% (11) browse fortnightly and 16.11% (29) browse monthly respectively.

Table 4: Time spent to use Internet

(n=180)

Duration of Use in a day	Frequency (180)	Percentage (100)
Up to 1hrs	76	42.22
Up to 2 hrs	68	37.77
More than 3 hrs	36	20

Table 4 shows the duration of the respondent's Internet search time in a day. It is observe that 42.22% (76) of the respondents use the Internet up-to 1hour, 37.77% (68) use internet up-to 2 hours and 20% (36) used internet for more than 3 hours.

Table 5: Purpose for Internet usages**(n=180)**

Purpose	Number of students	Percentage
Academic MIS	165	91.67
Chatting	164	91.11
Email	169	93.89
Entertainment	89	49.44
Social media	146	81.11
Sports	36	20.00
Internet banking	32	17.78
Shopping	65	36.11
To update knowledge	126	70.00

Note: Multiple responses received by respondents.

Table 5 explains the purpose of Internet used as per questionnaire prepared and filled by students. It is found that 91.67% (165) student were used internet for academic purpose which includes their MIS entry, admit card, registration card entry and result checking and payment of different college fees. Now student are acquainted with what's app, telegram like software for group chatting, it is observed that 164 student use internet for chatting in what's app and telegram like software. 169 use their own email ID in gmail, yahoo and rediff accounts. 146 student actively participate in social network like facebook, twitter for information exchange in the field of research, extension and also personal.

Table-6: Constraints faced by the use of Internet**(n=180)**

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Interruption of internet access	91	50.56
The money paid for browsing is expensive	24	13.33
Lack of knowledge about free access books, journals and other education sites	29	16.11
I do not know how to use the internet	3	1.66
slow connectivity and downloading	78	43.33
Difficulty in finding relevant information	67	37.22
Interruption of electricity facility	40	22.22

Table 6 explains about constraints faced by students to use the Internet. As per questionnaire data it is found that 50.56% (91) students face problems to use the internet due to Interruption of Internet access, 29 students do not use due to lack of knowledge about free access books, journals & other educational sites, only 3 students do not use since they do not know how to use the internet, 78 students face problem due to slow connectivity and downloading & 67 students face problem due to difficulties in finding relevant information.

6. Finding of the study

Major findings of the present study are as follows:

- Majority of students use internet in their own smart phone;
- At least one hours of their college time every students expend their time in Internet access;
- Among various purpose uses of Internet among students email accessing covers 91.67% followed by Academic uses 91.67% and social media covers 91.11%.

- Student major constraint for access internet is interruption of Internet linked followed by slow connectivity & downloading.

7. Conclusion

The Internet has emerged as the most powerful medium to access to unlimited information. The Internet is an inseparable part of today's educational system. It has revealed that agriculture students mostly preferred access to internet in college library and through their own smart phone. The study also found that most of student access internet daily and their purpose of internet access is academic, chatting, entertainment but they are not show interested in shopping, online banking and sports etc. The study revealed that most of students are aware of internet usage for academic work.

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