

An Investigation of the Purposes of Students' Internet Use and Their Attitude towards Socio-Economic Perspectives

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Abstract: The use of technology for the advancement of the present society has increased. The internet is one of the pioneers of the technology, which contributing much for the advancement of society. The use of internet increasing the pace of human resource development of behavior change of manpower towards society, education, economy etc. The aim of this study is to investigate the purpose of students' internet use and also to examine their attitudes towards socio-economic perspectives. The participants of the study are 200 students from different discipline at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU). To perform this study the researcher's developed questionnaire was structured and Likert scale. The quantitative data have been analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and a significant relationship was found regarding the students' use of internet and their attitudes towards socio-economic perspectives. The results of the study indicate that students find information easily from internet and the use of information plays a functional role of behavioral changes.

Keywords: Attitude; Information; Internet; Socio-economic;

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I. INTRODUCTION

The internet is a powerful tool which is building more interactive society. There is no alternative way which can bring all the communities of the world in the same platform. The youngsters' use of the internet for education or social media has an effective role on acquisition of information and this provided effective learning which contributed to their academic achievement (Bal & Bicen, 2017). Metzger, Flanagin, & Zwarun, (2003) showed that college students rely very heavily on the web for both academic and general information and also found that students find the information more credible than another source of information. A research for the purpose of internet usage and learning via internet reveals that internet access at home improves their grade point averages (Ruzgar, 2005). The internet has uncovered a new window of education, culture and economic platforms. Nowadays, modern government taking various measures to make the internet available for students to extend the practice of e-learning, e-commerce. There are 4.1 billion Internet users in the world as at December 2018. This is compared to 3.9 billion Internet users in mid-2018 and about 3.7 billion internet users in late 2017. Asia has the most internet users of all continents, accounting for 49 percent of all internet users (John Stevens, n.d.).

The scope for improving socio-cultural activities by the students' use of the internet is much larger in the developing countries than in developed countries. Recognizing the enormous benefits of the internet, the use of the internet as a tool of behavioral change of students towards society, religion, culture as well as economy is needed for effective role of students in a country. There are various internet applications and tools that help students in studies. Educational institutions, colleges and universities also spending a large amount of money, time and workforce develop digital product and services for students. Younger generation at a very early age getting the opportunities to access internet and this will increase internet usage rapidly in the near future. There is little research conducted addressing the relationship between internet usage by the students and their socio-economic behavior. The objectives of this study are to investigate the aim of the internet usage by the students and examine their attitude towards society and economy. A sample survey was conducted using structured and Likert scale questionnaire designed by researcher consisting of 20 statements of which 10 were inspired by (Byrne, Weston, & Cave, 2018). Researcher hopes that this study will provide a new insight regarding students' uses of internet and their behavioral change.

II. AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The aim of the study is to investigate the relationship between students' use of internet and their attitude towards socio-economic perspectives

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

A study carried out by Sharma, (2016) reported that internet, added values in the people's life and the way we introduce each other and communicate for shared life, career and business values. Rehman, Hunjra, Safwan, & Ahmad, (2014) conducted a research to examine the students' attitudes towards the uses of the internet. Results indicated that most of the students find that the internet knowledge is essential for students and teachers. Ninety percent of participants reported daily internet use. Men and women did not differ on the mean amount of time accessing the internet each day; however, the reasons for accessing the internet differed between the 2 groups (Anderson, 2001). The hypothesis that the internet has no impact on the student hypothesis internet has student perception of instructor effectiveness is rejected as well. There were mixed results on the effect of internet enhancements on student attitudes toward economics (Edward & Day, 2010). The use of internet among the students in Vocational School district 4 Pekanbaru internet has a negative impact because it has become an addiction, use of the internet is more likely to ha-negative and less support in learning activities (Puspita & Rohedi, 2018). The results revealed all hypotheses formulated were significantly related. Another study result indicated that internet addiction has a positive relationship with students' emotional instability. Then, the students' emotional instability translated to a poor academic performance and the internet addiction also has a negative relationship with the students' academic performance (Tosho, Abdul Mutalib, & Ab Salam, 2016). Contrary to the findings of the negative impact, internet has a positive and encouraging impact on learning, social interaction, and personal development (Rizkallah, 2010). Young people use internet higher as compared to aged. Youngsters are more inclined towards the use of social websites which is also a source of social satisfaction for its users Having an online job increases the internet usage hours by manifolds (Khan, Rahman, & Qazi, 2017).

IV. METHOD

1.1. Sampling

Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University offers admission at 23 disciplines in a variety of four faculties named as Social Science, Science, Arts and Business Administration. For the random selection purposes, a questionnaire was distributed randomly to the students.

1.2. Participants

The participants of the study are 200 students in different disciplines of JKKNIU. It may be mentioned that after receiving the filled in questionnaire, we found, 78 students from social sciences faculty, 35 students from BBA faculty, 43 students from Arts faculty and 43 students from Science faculty.

Table 1. The breakdown of the participants

Name of the Faculty	Number of the departments	Randomly Selected no. of departments	Participant number
Social Science	08	05	78
Business Administration	04	01	35
Science	04	02	44
Arts	07	03	43
	Total=23	Total selected departments 11	Total= 200 (200-7) N= 193

During the stage of data sorting 7 instruments were excluded due to inconsistencies, and the final number of the participants is 193.

1.3. Instruments

To measure students' attitudes, a set of structured and Likert scale questionnaire was constructed by researcher consisting of 20 statements of which 10 were inspired by Byrne et al., (2018) as a data gathering tool in the study. According to the answer to be given for the statements 5 points for "Strongly Agree", 1 point for "Strongly disagree", 4, 3 and 2 points for "Agree", "Undecided" and "Disagree" respectively.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

The collected research data were analyzed by the SPSS and the frequency has been analyzed as percentage, average, standard deviation and interpreted.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results have been presented briefly for structured questionnaire and for each statement of Likert scale questionnaire. There is significant relationship exist between the students' purposes of internet use and their attitude toward education, skills, norms, values, economy as well as society. This section includes average and standard deviation findings related to the use of the internet.

2.1. Gender

According to Table 2; the gender percentage of the participating students at the research were 47.67% (92 people) females and 52.33% were (101 people) males. This finding may reflect the fact that male and female students using the internet equally.

Table 2. Gender Distribution

Gender	f	%
Female	92	47.67
Male	101	52.33
Total	193	100

2.2. Aims of Internet Use

As illustrated on Table 3; students purposes of the use of internet are analyzed, they are for Social networking (f=186), for Personal communication (f=184), to stay technologically updated (f=167), to catch up the news (f=182), for entertainment (175), for downloading software (f=174), for academic purposes (f=186), to share personal achievement, interest, videos, pictures and views (f=171), to accrue health knowledge (f=127), for buying and selling product on online platforms (f=103), for playing game online (f=111), to earn money through freelancing (f=79), to avail banking services (f=87), for getting online based learning (f=150).

Table 3. Aims of Internet usage by Students

	F	%
1 Use internet for Social networking	186	96.37
2 Use internet for Personal communication	184	95.34
3 Use internet to stay technologically updated	167	86.53
4 Use internet to catch up the news and information	182	94.30
5 Use internet for entertainment	175	90.67
6 Use internet for downloading software	174	90.16
7 Use internet for academic purposes	186	96.37
8 Use internet to share personal achievement and views	171	88.60
9 Use internet to accrue health knowledge	127	65.80
10 Use internet for buying and selling product	103	53.37
11 Use internet for playing game online	111	57.51
12 Use internet to earn money through freelancing	79	40.93
13 Use internet to avail banking services	87	45.08
14 Use internet for getting online based learning	150	77.72
Total	193	100

This section includes average and standard deviation findings related to the use of social media in education.

2.3. Students' attitudes towards the socio-economic perspectives on the use of internet

On Table 4, there are average and standard deviation results of Students' attitudes towards the socio-economic perspectives on the Use of internet.

Table 4. Students' Perspectives on the internet			
	Statements	Mean	SD
1	The internet is helping you find out about career opportunities	4.21	0.91
2	Using internet makes easy to search a job	4.21	0.83
3	Using the internet is making your life easier	4.13	0.78
4	By using the internet, you play an important role in the free flow of information and news	4.10	0.82
5	Using the internet, you can easily achieve communication skills	4.06	0.57
6	Using the internet is increasing your academic performance	4.02	0.98
7	Internet enabling you to achieve required skill for successful career	3.96	1.11
8	The internet keeps you mentally sound with entertainment	3.92	1.07
9	Increasing your social connections through the internet	3.78	1.17
10	Misleading and false information dissemination through the internet has reduced your reliance on information.	3.68	1.12
11	Having solved complex problems easily from internet, you have lowered the ability of analyzing your problem	3.65	0.92
12	The tendency to keep memorizing decreased due to availability of necessary information on the internet easily	3.60	0.95
13	Internet increased your cultural adaptability	3.51	1.06
14	Use of internet grows your responsibility towards the society	3.47	1.08
15	Using the internet makes your personality smart	3.28	0.99
16	Your leadership qualities are being developed using the internet	3.24	1.49
17	Use of internet increasing your cultural adaptability	3.22	1.02
18	The use of the internet has become your addiction	3.17	0.82
19	Internet usage makes you economically independent	2.83	1.09
20	Using the internet makes you frustrated	2.68	0.99

The statements of filled questionnaire are arranged based on the values of mean obtained from a statistical analysis. Statements 1 containing highest mean value (M=4.21) which indicates that the internet is helping a student to find out about career opportunities. In contrast statement 20 containing lowest mean values (M=2.68) of all the statements, which indicates that most of the students gave the opinion that internet usage did not frustrate them. As can be seen on the table 3; students answered first six expressions of all the expression as "completely agree" for the statements; the internet has effective role in finding the career opportunities (M=4.21, SD=0.91), Using the internet makes easy to search a job (M=4.21, SD=0.83), life is becoming easier by default of internet (M=4.13, SD=0.78), the internet enables you to share news and information (M=4.1, SD=0.82), making you communicative (M=4.06, SD=0.57), Using internet contributes to academic performance (M=4.02, SD=0.98). Respondents close enough to agree to the statements 7-12. Regarding statements 13-18 students are actually unable to decide how internet uses are effective on their lives. The result of expression 19 is similar to the Rizkallah (2010) study, which found internet usage did not increase students' earnings significantly. According to the study conducted by Metzger, Flanagan and Zwarun, (2003) students perceived the internet more credible than newspapers, television and magazines which is reverse to this study. Most of the students reported that use of the internet does not make them frustrated. However, there is a significant relationship between students' internet usage and their performance regarding academic performance, communication skills, leadership skills, motivation, both for cultural and social activities as well as economic behavior.

VII. CONCLUSION

Since students are the leaders of using technology, it is important to investigate the student's behavior regarding internet. In this study students from JKKNIU were surveyed to find out the student's purpose of using internet and perceived impact of internet on socio-economic behavior. According to the results of this study, internet has a major impact on the lives of the students. Impact of internet use on students' attitudes is seen in how they live, communicate, learn, share, etc. The results of this study should encourage the use of internet to evolve students learning mode, to energize the flow of information and act students so that they drive the nation's digital revolution with skills, motivation and ethical principles. It also appears that students' use of the internet mostly changing the communication and education pattern. My findings suggest that, to grasp the full benefits of the internet, ICT literacy curricula at university level needs to be compulsory. There is to be concerned that to ensure the credibility of news and information, students should verify the information. This study hoped to lay the background for some potential studies.

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