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On

NEW PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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A STUDY ON USER'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE USAGE OF INTERNET

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INTRODUCTION

The internet, a global network of networks connecting millions of computer and computer users, is a relatively new resource for educators. The internet's rapid growth and dynamic nature has educators asking research questions that are still in the process of being studied. Researchers are only beginning to gain insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the internet in the class room. However, even at the early stage, there is emerging evidence that the internet provides a variety of valuable aids to education.

The internet provides up-to-date information on a variety of class room related topics unavailable from other sources. The content of text book, library, and teacher knowledge are enhanced by its new medium. The internet provides access to unlimited sources of information and search engines are continuously being advanced to provide efficient ways to help users to find what they want. Use of Internet as an extension of the class room or as a vehicle for higher education is becoming increasingly widespread. Teachers are the agents to bring right information to the learner through well designed teaching learning programs using both traditional as well as electronic information resources affecting the end product of education. Hence the study is entitled as "A study on User's attitude towards the Usage of Internet" with special reference to college teachers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To solicit the purpose of seeking information in Internet.
- 2. To find out the satisfaction level about the usage of Internet
- 3. To identify the difficulties faced by faculty members while using the internet.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The data for this study was acquired by both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected by using questionnaire containing both open and close ended questions. Secondary sources were collected from various types of journal article, proceedings and on internet. The survey included the faculty members from Holy Cross College from arts and science. 50 faculty members were requested to take part in the survey. In order to make fruitful investigation Garrett ranking technique was applied to know the purpose of using internet.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. Demographics of the respondents

The responses were received from fifty faculty members. The group consisted of thirty- five Assistant professors and fifteen Associate professors. Thirty-seven members of academic staff hold M.phil degree and thirteen have got the in Doctoral degrees. Both Arts and Science faculty members were included in this study.

2. Purpose of using internet

The aim of the present study is to study about the purpose of using the internet facilities by the faculty members. Garett ranking technique is used to analyse the major purpose of using internet.

Table: 1
Purpose of using internet

Purpose	Rank	
Class room preparation	II	
Research purpose	I	
For guiding research students	V	
Developing upto-date-knowledge	III	
For submitting research papers	IV	
Recreational purpose	VI	
Personal purpose	VII	

The above table show that the faculty who show enthusiastic attitude towards the use of internet for research purpose are ranked first while the faculty members give second and third preference to class room preparation and for developing up-to-date knowledge respectively. The least rank is given for personal purpose.

3. Frequency of using internet

The following table clearly depicts the hours spend per day by the faculty members.

Table: 2
Frequency of using Internet (per day)

S.No	Duration of Internet Use	No of users	%
1	Less than 2 hours	25	50
2	2-3 hours	20	40
3	More than 3 hours	5	10
	Total	50	100

From the above table, it is observed that majority of he faculty members (50%) are using the internet less than 2 hours per day. It is followed by 40% using internet 2-3 hours per day and only 10% are using internet for more than 3 hours. This shows that they are depending more on traditional sources than internet resources.

4. Difficulties encountered

The study has attempted to identify the difficulties faced by the faculty members while seeking information on internet.

S.No	Difficulties encountered	No. of users	%
1	Failure of Electricity	15	30
2	Lack of Time	17	34
3	Subscription of e-journals in expensive	1	2
4	Slow speed	10	20
5	Lack of Technical usage	4	8
6	Information scattered in too many sources	3	6
	Total	50	100

Lack of time is the main difficulty faced by majority (34%) of the faculty followed by failure of electricity (30%).

5. Level of satisfaction

Among the fifty respondents, twenty-two of them are satisfied with the usage of the internet and seventeen are highly satisfied. No faculty member is dissatisfied with the usage of internet facility.

CONCLUSION

Internet resources have become the vital part of human life in the 21st century. The study shows that internet has a radical impact on changing the higher education environment. It has rapidly changed the way of seeking and disseminating information. It is clear from the study that the internet resources are very useful for research work and for class room preparation. It is hoped that the findings would help the teachers in drafting policies and programs related to e-learning to facilitate teaching and research.

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