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A study of internet usage among Open University and formal university students

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to explore the level of internet usage of open and formal university students. However, it is imperative to mention here that non-formal students in the presents study were treated those students who are pursuing Master of Arts from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Beside, formal students in the presents study were treated those students who are pursuing Master of Arts from University of Kashmir Hazratbal Srinagar. Whole sample of IGNOU students was selected with the help of purposive sampling technique and the sample of formal students was selected with the help of random sampling technique. The total sample for the study was 400 respondents. The collected data was put to suitable statistical treatment by using frequency distribution, mean, Standard deviation and 't' value. In context to this, it was found that there exists no significant difference between Open University and formal university students on their level of internet usage.

Keywords: internet usage, Open University, formal university students

Introduction

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has proved catalyst for change, especially change in work culture, handling and exchanging information, teaching learning approaches, business management, information system etc. In nutshell Information Communication Technology (ICT) has affected each and every sphere of life as well as each and every stakeholder of the society. The most drastic alteration in our lives since the past few years is the penetration and massive progress of the Information technology, which has become more of a necessity for us now rather than a facility. These radical changes that information technology has introduced in our lives have completely changed our lives and perhaps have forced our cognitive setup to change. Life has become much less manual and a lot hassle-free for people all around the globe that have active access to the innovations of information technology. It is the result of information and communication technologies (ICT) that previously dislocated people are now neighbours in the circumference of virtual connections. However, the above mentioned evidences of Information Communication Technology (ICT) are possible only through the medium of internet. The Internet and its structural design have grown in evolutionary fashion from modest beginnings, rather than from a Grand Plan. The evolution of the Internet has triggered massive enhancement in the abilities of the modern man to share information around the globe. The detached planets of the universe are now attached to man with the assistance of internet. In a way, it has revolutionized the world from theological stage to metaphysical stage. Internet has emerged as a low-cost and immediate medium of sharing ideas, knowledge and skills has made collaboration trouble-free and hassle-free. But, like any other scientific innovation, it should be used ethically for the welfare of the society.

Statement of the problem: The statement of the research problem is reported under:

Objective: The purpose of this study was to explore the internet usage of open and formal university students.

Hypothesis: The hypothesis of the study is given as under:

To explore the level of internet usage of open and formal university students.

Delimitations of the study: During the whole research process lot or constraints were faced by the investigator. However, investigator made ample efforts to delimit these constraints upto maximum extent. Consequents the research delimited the present study to following domains:

- 1) The presents study was delimited to 400 respondents.
- 2) The presents study was delimited to formal university and Open University students.
- 3) The present study was delimited to internet usage and e-learning variable.

Methodology: The present study has been operated through descriptive survey method. Further, parameters of the study are based on below mentioned parameters.

- **Sample:** The researcher made a list of schools both respondents in formal and non-formal students. However, it is imperative to mention here that non-formal students in the presents study were treated those students who are pursuing Master of Arts from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Beside, formal students in the presents study were treated those students who are pursuing Master of Arts from University of Kashmir Hazratbal Srinagar.
- **Sampling technique:** Whole sample of IGNOU students was selected with the help of purposive sampling technique and the sample of formal students was selected with the help of random sampling technique. Thus, the required sample was selected with the help of random cum purposive sampling technique. The total sample for the study was 400 respondents.
- **Statistical treatment:** The collected data was put to suitable statistical treatment by using frequency distribution, mean, Standard deviation and 't' value.

Analysis and interpretation of the results: The analyse and interpretations of the results are reported as under:

Table 1: Showing Frequency and Percent Wise Distribution of open and formal university students on Various Level of Internet Usage (IU)

LIU	OUS		FUS	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
EHU	90	45.00	80	40.00
HU	60	30.00	60	30.00
AAU	20	10.00	30	15.00
MU	10	5.00	10	5.00
BAU	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LU	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELU	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	400	100	400	100

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- OUS = Open University students.
- FUS = Formal university students.
- LIU = Levels of Internet Usage.
- EUH = Extremely High Usage.
- HU = High Usage.
- MU = Moderate Usage.
- BAU = Below Average Usage.
- LU = Low Usage.
- ELU = Extreme Low Usage.
- EUGS = Engineering Undergraduate Students.

- AUGS = Academic Under Graduate Students.

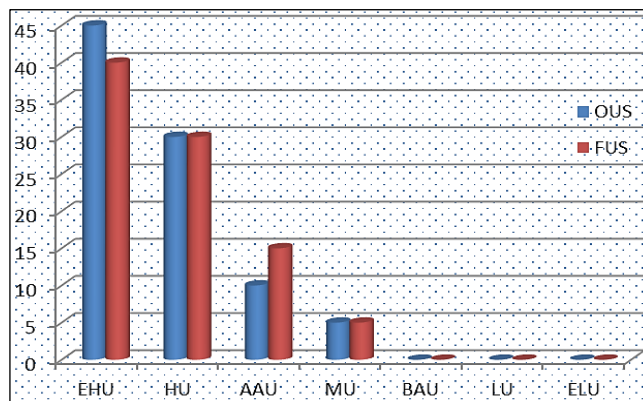


Fig 1: Showing graphical representation of open and formal university students on Various Level of Internet Usage (IU)

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Interpretation: The results presented in table 1 (Please refer Fig. 1) Gives information about the mean Frequency and Percent Wise Distribution of open and formal university students On Various Level of Internet Usage (IU). The results reveal that among Open University students (IGNOU Students) 4.00% (F=90) respondents were observed with extreme high internet usage (EHU). Besides, it was found that 30.00% (F=60) Open University students (IGNOU Students) were observed high level of internet usage (HU). In the same table it was found that 10% (F=20) Open University students (IGNOU Students) were observed with above average level of internet usage (AAU). Meanwhile, the results report that 0.00% (F= 0.00) Open University students (IGNOU Students) were seen with moderate level of internet usage (MU). In addition to this it was found that 0% (F=0) Open University students (IGNOU Students) were reported with below average level of internet usage (BAU). Further, the results generalize that 0% (F=0) Open University students (IGNOU Students) (EUGS) were found with low level internet usage (LU). Additionally, it was revealed that 0% (F=0) Open University students (IGNOU Students) generate extreme low level of internet usage (ELU). Coming towards their counterparts in the same table, (Kashmir University students), it was found that 40. 07% (F=80) were reported with extreme high level of internet usage (EHU). Inconsonance to same, the results again indicate that 30.00% (F=60) formal students (Kashmir university students) were highly inclined towards internet usage (HIU). The perusal of the results in the same table indicate that among formal students (Kashmir university students) 15% (F=30) were seen with above average level of internet usage (AAU). Meanwhile, the results report that 5% (F= 10) formal students (Kashmir university students) were seen with moderate level of internet usage (MU). In addition

to this it was found that 0.0% (F=0.00) formal students (Kashmir university students) were reported with below average level of internet usage (BAU). Further, the results generalize that 0.00% (F=0.00) formal students (Kashmir university students) were found with low internet usage (LU). Additionally, it was revealed that 0.00% (F=0.00) formal students (Kashmir university students) generate extreme low level of internet usage (ELU).

Table 2: Showing composite Frequency and Percent Wise Distribution of open and formal university students on Various Level of Internet Usage (IU)

LIU	Composite Analysis	
	Frequency	Percentage
EHU	170	42.2
HU	120	30.00
AAU	50	12.5
MU	20	5.00
BAU	0.00	0.00
LU	0.00	0.00
ELU	0.00	0.00

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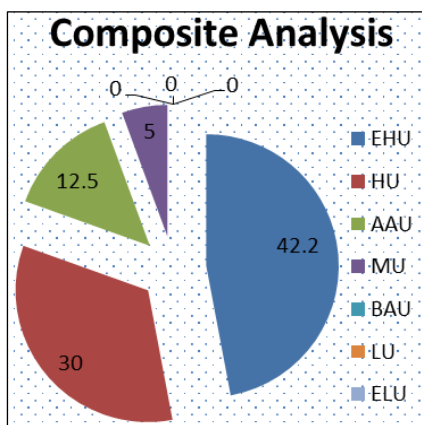


Fig 2: Showing composite graphical representation of open and formal university students on Various Level of Internet Usage (IU)

- OUS = Open University students.
- FUS = Formal university students.
- LIU = Levels of Internet Usage.
- EUH = Extremely High Usage.
- HU = High Usage.
- MU = Moderate Usage.
- BAU = Below Average Usage.
- LU = Low Usage.
- ELU = Extreme Low Usage.
- EUGS = Engineering Undergraduate Students.
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Interpretation: The results presented in table 2 (Please refer Fig. 2) gives information about the mean frequency and percent wise distribution of open and formal university students on composite level of Internet Usage (IU). The results reveal that among open and formal university students (O&FUS Students) 42.2% (F=170.00) respondents were observed with extreme high internet usage (EHU). Besides, it was found that 30.00% (F=120) open and formal university students (O & FUS Students) were observed high level of internet usage (HU). In the same table it was found that 12.5% (F=50) open and formal university students (O&FUS Students) were observed with above average level of internet usage (AAU). Meanwhile, the results report that 05.00.00% (F= 20.00) open and formal university students (O & FUS Students) were seen with moderate level of internet usage (MU). In addition to this it was found that 0% (F=0) open and formal university students (O & FUS Students) were reported with below average level of internet usage (BAU). Further, the results generalize that 0% (F=0) open and formal university students (O&FUS Students) were found with low level internet usage (LU). Additionally, it was revealed that 0% (F=0) open and formal university students (O&FUS Students) generate extreme low level of internet usage (ELU).

Table 3: Showing significance of difference between open and formal university students on Their Level of Internet usage (IU)

Internet Usage	OUS		FUS		t' value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
	59.16	9.39	59.29	9.28	0.14@

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- OUS= Open University students.
- FUS= Formal university students.
- @= Insignificant at 0.01 level of significance.

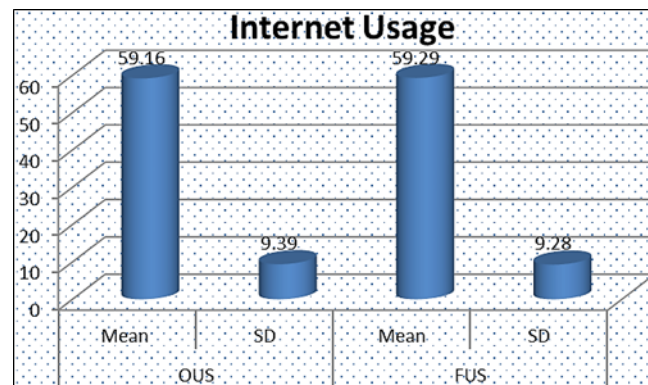


Fig 3: Showing significance of difference between open and formal university students on Their Level of Internet usage (IU)

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- OUS= Open University students.
- FUS= Formal university students.
- @= Insignificant at 0.01 level of significance.

Interpretation: The results reported in above mentioned table (Please refer table 3, Fig. 3) gives information about the mean significance of formal and open university students. The obtained results indicate that the mean value of Open University students (IGNOU Students) was reported 59.16 and the mean value of formal university students (Kashmir University students) was reported 59.29. When the both

groups were comparatively analysed, the 't' value came out to be 0.14, which is lower than table value at 0.01 level of confidence. Thus the perusal of the above reported results indicates that there exists no significant difference between formal and Open University students. Both the group of respondents were seen identical level of internet usage. The results may attribute to this fact that now internet has gained popularity in each and every segment of education system. Indeed no significant difference has been reported between formal and Open University students on their level of internet usage. The status of the hypothesis is reported as under:

Hypothesis: There exists no significant difference between Open University and formal university students on their level of internet usage.

Accepted

The above reports results indicate that there exists no significant difference between Open University and formal university students on their level of internet usage. The results are supported in by the host of the researchers like; Kumar, R. & Kaur, A. (2005)^[11], P. & Ormrod, J. E. (2014)^[10], Kuan-Yu Lin and His-Peng Lu (2011)^[9], Khan, A., (2008)^[6], Kindi, S., & Alhashmi, S.M. (2012)^[7] and Kisanjara, Simeo Boniphace (2014)^[8].

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to explore the level for internet usage of open and formal university students. In context to this, it was found that there exists no significant difference between Open University and formal university students on their level of internet usage.

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