

Effect of Internet Utilization on Overall Performance of Agricultural Research Scholars of M. P. University of Agriculture & Technology, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

Internet has become a way of life for majority of higher education students all around the world. For most universities and college students, the internet is a functional tool, one that has greatly changed the way they interact with each other and with information as they go about their studies. The Study revealed that data presented in table 1 it can be concluded that Majority of the internet utilizing male and female agricultural research scholars perceived that the “internet services facilitate improvement in systems of communication” as the most important effect on the academic performance and the “internet services facilitate to maintain a wide circle of friends” as the most important effect on the non-academic performance.

Keywords: Performance, agricultural research, internet

INTRODUCTION

The Internet has reshaped the way we communicate, work, play and how we understand the world around us. With the rise of the Internet as a digital highway for messages and images, people now have a fast, convenient and reliable means to transmit and receive information. Internet use is spreading rapidly into daily life and has an impact in many areas including the higher education system. Internet heralded the development and implementation of new and innovative teaching strategies in higher education institutions. Educators who advocate technology integration in learning process believe that it will improve learning and prepare students to effectively participate in the 21st century workplace. It is now widely used as a research tool for news, education, entertainment and informal web-based education.

Encyclopedia Britannica defines communication as "The exchange of meanings between individuals through a common system of symbols". The word communication has been originated from the Latin word "Communis" which means common, sharing of ideas, information and feelings between individuals, so that a common understanding is established between the person sending the information and the person receiving the same.

Therefore, a conscious attempt to establish commonality is communication. Communication is essential to all human associations. All type of developments is the personal development of individual or nation's development in Communication is crucial for social change by which alteration occurs in the same structure and function of a social system. The 21st century is witnessing a communication revolution with information processing and retrieval which are being reliably done at incredible speeds.

METHODOLOGY

The study was purposively conducted in Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur due to the reason that this College is the oldest Agricultural College in Rajasthan state and enjoys more and adequate facilities of internet surfing for agricultural students, especially for research scholars at central library as well as in their respective departments and Hostels as compared to other agricultural colleges in Rajasthan.

From the RCA, Udaipur, a list of all the PG and Ph.D. research scholars was prepared from the student section of the college. There was 150 PG and 110 Ph. D research scholars, *i.e.* a total of 260 research scholars registered in

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second semester during the session 2011-12. Since the whole population was not too big, hence, the whole population as such of 260 research scholars (150 PG and 110 Ph. D research scholars) was treated as the respondents for the purpose of the study. The total size of the sample taken was 117 respondents (90 male and 27 female)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of internet use on academic performance of the agricultural research scholars

The data presented in table 1 indicated that among the different academic performances the 'Internet services facilitate improvement in systems of communication' was perceived as the most important effect on the academic performance of the male agricultural students (MPS 90.00) and female agricultural students (MPS 87.41) and was accorded first rank. The 'Internet facilitates to retrieve latest information through number of sources found' was perceived as the second most important effect on the academic performance of the male agricultural students (MPS 88.89) and female agricultural students (MPS

85.19) and was accorded second rank and third rank, respectively

On the other hand 'due to Internet usage, there is a decrease in actual study- hours and live discussions with friends' was the least perceived effect on the academic performance of the male agricultural students (MPS 58.89) as well as female agricultural students (MPS 57.29) and was accorded last rank by both male and female agricultural research scholars.

The value of rank order correlation (rs) between male and female agricultural students, was found to be 0.93 for which the calculated value of 't' were found higher than the tabulated value at 1 per cent level of significance which indicates a positive and highly significant correlation between the effect internet on the academic performance the male and female agricultural students Hence, the null hypothesis (Ho3.1) was therefore rejected and alternate hypothesis was accepted. This leads to the conclusion that there is a highly significant correlation between the effect of internet on the academic performance of the agricultural research scholars.

**Table 1: Effect of internet utilization on the academic performance of the male and female agricultural research scholars
n = 117**

Category	Male agriculture research scholars (n =90)							Female agricultural research scholars (n=27)						
	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	DA (2)	SDA (1)	MPS	Rank	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	DA (2)	SDA (1)	MPS	Rank
Internet facilitates to retrieve latest information through number of sources found	46 (51.11)	39 (43.33)	4 (4.44)	1 (1.11)	0 (0.00)	88.89	II	13 (48.15)	10 (37.04)	2 (7.41)	2 (7.41)	0 (0.00)	85.19	III
Due to Internet usage, there is a decrease in actual study- hours and live discussions with friends	13 (14.44)	16 (17.78)	21 (23.33)	34 (37.82)	5 (5.56)	58.89	IX	3 (11.11)	6 (22.22)	5 (18.52)	11 (40.74)	2 (7.41)	57.29	IX
Internet facilitates saving in terms of time and energy looking for information	43 (47.78)	42 (46.67)	3 (3.33)	2 (2.22)	0 (0.00)	87.33	III	13 (48.15)	12 (44.44)	1 (3.70)	1 (3.70)	0 (0.00)	87.41	I
Internet services are cost-effective	23 (24.56)	44 (48.89)	17 (18.89)	4 (4.44)	2 (2.22)	78.22	V	5 (18.52)	13 (48.15)	5 (18.52)	2 (7.41)	2 (7.41)	72.59	VI
Due to Internet usage there is a decrease in frequency of reading printed materials like books, journals, news papers, etc	9 (10.00)	24 (26.67)	18 (20.00)	31 (34.44)	8 (8.89)	58.89	IX	5 (18.52)	7 (25.93)	3 (11.11)	9 (33.33)	3 (11.11)	61.48	VIII
Internet services facilitate improvement in systems of communication	49 (54.44)	37 (41.11)	4 (4.44)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	90.00	I	13 (48.15)	11 (40.04)	3 (11.11)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	87.41	I
The Internet had a positive impact on academic experience in general	37 (41.11)	41 (45.56)	10 (11.11)	2 (2.22)	0 (0.00)	85.11	IV	11 (40.74)	10 (37.04)	4 (14.81)	2 (7.41)	0 (0.00)	82.22	IV

Due to Internet usage there is a decrease in frequency of visit to library as well as preparation of hand-written notes.	16 (17.78)	27 (30.00)	9 (10.00)	31 (34.44)	7 (7.78)	63.11	VIII	5 (18.52)	6 (22.22)	5 (18.52)	6 (22.22)	5 (18.52)	60.00	IX
Internet improved the professional competence of the students	18 (20.00)	18 (20.00)	20 (22.22)	27 (30.00)	7 (7.78)	62.89	VII	5 (87.52)	6 (22.22)	5 (18.52)	10 (37.04)	1 (3.70)	62.96	VII
Internet expedited the research process conducted by the students	31 (34.44)	25 (27.78)	19 (21.11)	15 (16.67)	0 (0.00)	76.00	VI	9 (33.33)	8 (29.63)	6 (22.22)	4 (14.81)	0 (0.00)	77.30	V

rs = 0.93750** t = 6.59912 rs = Rank correlation **significant at 1% level of significance

SA = Strongly agree; A = Agree, N = Neutral; DA = Disagree; SDA = Strongly disagree

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Effect of internet use on non academic performance of the agricultural research scholars

The data presented in table 2 revealed that among the different non academic performances the 'Internet services facilitate to maintain a wide circle of friends' was perceived as the most important effect on the non-academic performance of the male agricultural students (MPS 83.11) and female agricultural students (MPS 79.11) and was accorded first rank. The 'Internet use has increased dependency on Internet' was perceived as the second most important effect on the non-academic performance of the male agricultural students (MPS 64.22) and female agricultural students (MPS 64.43) and was accorded second and third rank, respectively

On the other hand 'due to Internet use, there is a decrease in participation in the extra-curricular activities at the college/ university level' was the least perceived

non academic performance by the male agricultural students (MPS 48.67) as well as by the female agricultural students (MPS 49.63) and was accorded last rank by both categories of respondents.

The value of rank order correlation (rs) between male and female agricultural students, was found to be 0.98 for which the calculated value of 't' was found higher than the tabulated value at 1 per cent level of significance which indicates a positive and highly significant correlation between male and female agricultural students Hence, the null hypotheses (Ho3.2) were, therefore rejected and alternate hypotheses were accepted. This leads to the conclusion that there is a highly significant correlation between the internet utilizing male and female agricultural research scholars in perceiving the effect of non academic performances.

Table 2: Effect of internet utilization on the academic performance of the male and female agricultural research scholars n = 117

Category	Male agricultural research scholars (n =90)						Female agricultural research scholars(n=27)							
	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	DA (2)	SDA (1)	MPS	Rank	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	DA (2)	SDA (1)	MPS	Rank
Internet services facilitate to maintain a wide circle of friends	34 (37.78)	43 (47.78)	7 (7.78)	5 (5.56)	1 (1.11)	83.11	I	8 (29.63)	14 (51.85)	3 (11.11)	0 (0.00)	2 (7.41)	79.26	I
Internet use disturbs the "live" social interaction with friends	4 (4.44)	23 (25.56)	10 (11.11)	45 (50.00)	8 (8.89)	53.33	IV	2 (7.41)	5 (18.52)	3 (11.11)	14 (57.85)	3 (11.11)	51.85	V
Due to Internet use, there is a decrease in my participation in the extra curricular activities at the college/ university level	3 (3.33)	13 (14.44)	9 (10.00)	60 (66.67)	5 (5.56)	48.67	VI	1 (3.70)	5 (18.52)	3 (11.11)	15 (55.56)	3 (11.11)	49.63	VI

Due to Internet use, I get health-related problems like eye-pain, back-pain neck-pain and head ache, etc.	9 (10.00)	25 (27.78)	15 (16.67)	32 (35.56)	9 (10.00)	58.44	III	4 (14.82)	9 (32.33)	5 (18.52)	6 (22.22)	3 (11.11)	63.70	II
Internet use has disturbed my sleeping-pattern	5 (5.56)	19 (21.11)	14 (15.56)	47 (52.22)	5 (5.56)	53.78	IV	2 (7.41)	5 (18.52)	5 (18.52)	13 (48.15)	2 (7.41)	54.07	IV
Internet use has increased my dependency on Internet	18 (20.00)	28 (31.11)	9 (10.00)	25 (27.78)	10 (11.11)	64.22	II	7 (25.93)	6 (22.22)	2 (7.41)	6 (22.22)	6 (22.22)	61.48	III

rs = 0.98214** t = 10.44074 rs = Rank correlation **significant at 1% level of significance

SA = Strongly agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; DA = Disagree; SDA = Strongly disagree

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

CONCLUSION

Majority of the internet utilizing male and female agricultural research scholars perceived that the “internet services facilitate improvement in systems of communication” as the most important effect on the academic performance and the “internet services facilitate to maintain a wide circle of friends” as the most important effect on the non-academic performance.

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