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## INTERNET USAGE AMONG SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT:

Recently, there has been much controversy focused on the positive and negative impacts of internet usage. Terms such as "Internet Addiction", "Internet Dependency" and "Pathological Computer Use" have caught up the attention of a variety of researchers considering the wide spread growth of the internet use, across demographic groups in area of relevant research interest. However, one group, the school student population may be particularly susceptible to the problem related to excessive internet use, like the rate of

academic dismissal, develops psychological issues, decreased social interactions and so on. In this paper attempt has been made to bring out the usage of internet and how the various demographic factors affecting the internet usage of school children.

**KEYWORDS:** Internet, Addiction, School Students, Usages.

### INTRODUCTION

The Internet and mobile technology are increasingly important to the educational and social lives of adolescents, and are becoming a part of their identity. With the advent of broadband and mobile access to the internet giving young people access to the internet any place and at any time. The advancement in Information Technology led to the emergence of social networking. It is currently being used regularly by millions of people in the world. The usage of social networking has been so widespread that they have caught the attention of

academics worldwide. The usage of internet is evidently increasing, particularly among the school students. The term internet and social network has been defined by different authors in several ways. There are many social networking websites, with various technological aspects which supports all range of social networking sites. These websites are becoming much popular among school students and professionals which help them in making connect each other, locally and globally. Internet has given us the ability to connect with peoples from around the world with a few clicks. There has been an increasing need for people to find ways to be connected with friends, family members, co-workers,

classmates, and those they have just met with the help of internet. School students are using the internet not only for their study purpose and also using for entertainment like online gaming, chatting, watching videos, pornography, downloads movies and songs. This will also leads in addiction and causes some other psychological issues among them. The demographic factors also influence the internet addiction among school students. In this study an effort made to find out the usage of internet addiction, level of internet addiction and the impact of demographic factors on internet addiction among the school students.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Yan Chen et al. (2016)** investigated the prevalence of internet addiction disorder among 5,249 adolescent students from 4 junior high schools and 4 high schools in Anhui, China. The result shows that 8.7% of the adolescent students were addicted to internet whereas 76.2% of the adolescents were not addicted to internet. Male adolescents (12.3%) were highly affected to internet when compared to female adolescents (4.9%). There is a significant difference among adolescents from rural (8.2%) and urban (9.3%) area, among adolescents from different grades, between students from single child family (9.5%) and non single child family (8.1%) and among the adolescents from different type of families.

**Piyush Upadhyay et al. (2017)** examined the prevalence of internet addiction and related behavioural problems among 1150 adolescent school student between the age group of 14 to 17 years in various streams of 3 different colleges in Lucknow, India by using Young's Internet Addiction Test and Dukes Health Profile was used to measure the physical, psychological and social index of adolescents life. The respondents were classified in to potential addicts, near addicts and definite addicts. The result shows that 70 per cent of the school students were male and 30 per cent of the respondents were female. The mean age of the students was 15 years. 74.5 per cent of the respondents were potential addicts, 24.8 per cent of the respondents were possible addict, 0.7 percent were definite addicts the study also revealed that excessive use of internet had problems of anxiety, depression and stress among adolescents.

**Sharma B. et al. (2018)** studied the prevalence of internet addiction and studied the associated factors of internet addiction among 1304 undergraduate students of Udupi taluk, Karnataka, India through convenience sampling method by using Young's Internet Addiction Test and DASS scale. The internet addiction test score shows that 44% of the students were addicted to internet, they found that there is an association between internet addiction and gender, fathers occupation, mother's education, availability of personal gadgets, use of smart phone, exposure to internet at young age and also they revealed that with increase in internet addiction there was consequent increase in the level of depression, anxiety and stress.

## OBJECTIVES

- To find out the levels of internet usage among school students.
- To analyse the impact of demographic factors on internet addiction among the school students.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study aims to find out the demographic factors affecting internet addiction among school students. This section is an account of the research procedures adopted to carry out the investigations. Descriptive research design was used for the present study. Descriptive research design describes the data and characteristics about the population or phenomenon being studied. The universe consists of the students who are studying at schools in Madurai. For the present study, sample of 60 school students were selected from Madurai city, Tamil Nadu, India by using purposive sampling method. Purposive sampling method starts with a purpose in mind and the sample is thus selected to include people of interest and exclude those who do not suit the purpose. Both primary and secondary data were used for data collection.

## ANALYSIS OF DATA

This session deals with finding out the usage of internet among school students and the selected demographic factors which affects the internet usage. For the present study t-test and One-way ANOVA were used to analyse the difference between demographic factors and the usage of internet among school students.

The following table shows the classification of the respondents based on the usage of internet based on the usage of internet such as not at all, very rarely, occasionally, often and always.

**Table 1: Level of Internet Usage among School Students**

S.No.	Level of Internet Addiction	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Not at all	10	16.66
2.	Very Rarely	15	25
3.	Occasionally	25	41.67
4.	Often	6	10
5.	Always	4	6.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Table-1 shows that 41.67% of the respondents occasionally use the internet, 25% of the respondents very rarely use the internet, 16.66% of the respondents not at all using to the internet, 10% of the respondents often use internet and the remaining 6.67% of the respondents always use the internet.

In order to study the difference between age, sex, type of family and the internet addiction among the school students student 't' was used. The following table shows the estimated results of difference between age, sex, type of family and internet addiction among school students.

**Table 2: t-test between Age, Sex, Type of Family and Internet Addiction among School Students**

Variable	Factors	Mean	SD	Df	Statistical Inference	
<b>Age</b>	12-14	112.55	51	15.643	59	t=0.133 (P>0.05) Not significant
	15-18	114.67	9	18.574		
<b>Sex</b>	Male	113.42	38	17.861	.123	t=0.123 (P>0.05) Not significant
	Female	111.91	22	12.332		
<b>Family type</b>	Nuclear	113.06	48	16.544	59	t=0.036 (P<0.05) Significant
	Joint	112.08	12	13.996		

Table-2 depicts that there is no significant difference between age, sex and level of internet addiction. And there is a significant difference between family type and internet addiction.

In order to study the difference between domicile, family income and usage of internet addiction among the school students one way ANOVA was used. The following table shows the estimated results of one way ANOVA between domicile, family income and level of internet addiction among school students.

**Table 3: One-way ANOVA between Domicile, Family Income of the Respondent and Internet Addiction**

Variable	Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean	Mean Square	Statistical inference
<b>Domicile</b>	Between Groups	4385.614	2	Rural =95.45 Urban=118.19 Semi Urban =112.42	2192.807	F=11.744 (P>0.05) Not Significant
	Within Groups	1064 3.320	57		186.725	

<b>Family Income</b>	Between Groups	1994.946	4	Below Rs.10000 =98.50 Rs.10000 to 20000 =106.71 Rs.20001 to 300000 =113 Rs.30001 to 40000 =116 Above Rs.40000=117.24	2192.807	F=11.744 (P>0.05) Not Significant
	Within Groups	13033.987	55		186.725	

From Table-3, among the total population 85% of the respondent's fall under the age group of 18-21 years. 63.3% of the respondents are male and 37.7% of the respondents are female. Most of the respondents are from urban areas. 80% of the respondents are from nuclear families. 45% of the respondents spent 8 to 16 hours per week for internet. 41.7% of the respondents have been using the internet for more than 3 years. 36.7% of the respondents prefer the chat rooms in the internet. 41.67% of the respondents are occasionally addicted to the internet.

There is no significance difference between internet addiction and demographic factors such as sex, age, educational status, domicile, income, number of family members, amount spent per week and sector of internet usage. There is a significant difference between internet addiction and type of family. The respondents who live in nuclear families are more addicted to internet than those who live in joint family.

### GENERAL FINDINGS

- 85% of the respondents fall under the age group of 15 to 18 years.
- 63.3% of the respondents are males.
- 61.7% of the respondents are from urban areas.
- 28.3% of the respondents have a family income of Rs.20001 to 30000.
- 80% of the respondents are from nuclear families.
- 48.3% of the respondents have 2 to 4 members in their family.
- 45% of the respondents stay in school hostel.
- 81.7% of the respondents say that their source of motivation is their friends.
- 36.7% of the respondents spend below Rs.250 per month for internet.
- 40% of the respondents use internet cafe as their primary mode of access for using the internet.
- 58.3% of the respondents prefer going alone for using the internet.

### CONCLUSION

The study concludes that various aspects such as sex, source of motivation, amount spent per month for internet, primary mode of accessing internet and time spent per session had an impact over the school students and they need appropriate attention from experts. It is essential for the children to have a control on usage of time being spent online activities. Awareness should be created among the school students about the bad effects of excessive internet usage. Parents and school can motivate the students regarding proper use of internet and balancing time with internet usage, studies and playing outdoor games.

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