



Internet addiction among arts and science higher secondary students of West Bengal

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Abstract

Internet is a globally connected computer network which interconnects millions of people at a time. This cyberspace has been used by adolescents to communicate each other. The excessive use of the internet develops adverse effects in them and May development of information communication technology Internet has blazed a trail in our thinking, learning, achievement, work, life etc. In recent years the dramatic increase in the use of the internet led to pathological use may be called Internet Addiction. The present study has tried to find out the Internet Addiction level among arts and science higher secondary (10+2) students of West Bengal.

Keywords: internet addiction

Introduction

Internet has become a widely accepted way for networking and Information exchange. Despite the positive effects of the computer use and Internet, these are growing tendency on the adverse effects of its excessive use. According to Chao and Hsiao (2000) [3] and Muslu and Bolisik (2009) [12]. Internet can cause various kinds of problems when it is used without awareness.

Karaman and Kurtoglu (2009) [10] showed Internet can affects the lives of human being negatively and causes the problem addiction .Such problem may be defined as Internet Addiction which is the one of growing problem related to use of information communication technology.

Various research findings have identified that maximum use of Internet or Internet Addiction affects ones physical health, family life; academic achievement .It effects study habits, lowering grades, absent in classes. Again users suffer from psychological distress such as anxiety, depression, and compulsivity.

Soule *et al* (2003) [18] showed that users between 19 to 24 years old were more at risk of becoming Internet Addicts whereas Kimberly Young and Rogers (1998) identified that university students are considered as high risk group of Internet Addiction.

Review of Related Literature

Young showed (1996) that middle aged women were more prove to Internet Addition than men and other age groups.

Brenner (1997) [3] showed that men and women did not differ in either time-on-line or number of related problems experienced.

Scherer (1997) [14] reported that dependent Internet user included a significantly larger proportion of men to women (71% men and 29 % women) that the nondependent users of Internet.

Davis (1999) found that male students spend more time online than female in the public university. However in private

University there was no significant gender differences in term of the time spent online.

According to Chen (2000) [4] time management problems and compulsion symptoms are common predictors for both genders weekly time spent on the Internet.

Weiser (2000) [20] reported that significant gender difference in Internet usage. He reported that males tend to be more familiar with the computers and Internet as compared to females.

Fallows (2005) [7]: Showed that women are mainly appreciating the Internet for its communication possibilities with friends and family where as men are mainly appreciating the internet for its broad possibilities. Again there is difference between the genders in the purpose for accessing the Internet. Pew Internet and American life (2005) [4] man are more likely than women to use the internet more for information gathering while women more to use in communication.

Ashlanbay, Ashlanbay (2009) stated that there are significant gender differences were discovered. The result showed that, 1% of women and 9% of men were reported as addicts.

Sharma, Sahu, Kesar and Sharma (2014) [15] conducted a survey on 391 samples and found that male students were more addicted than female. There was only 0.3% students addict of Internet.

Wallace (2014) [19] showed that in more than 100 studies in china showed over 12% of male and 5% of female students disclosed signs of Internet Addiction.

et al., (2015): In their cross – sectional study intends to evaluate risk factors for Internet addiction among college students. Result findings concluded that Internet addiction to be associated with male gender.

Tsitsika *et al.*, (2011) studied a case control study was conducted among 129 adolescents. They found that internet addict and non – addict were similar in terms of residence and socioeconomic status. So it can be concluded that they did not found any correlation between socio-economic status and Internet addiction.

Objectives of the study

- To find the internet Addiction level among arts and science higher secondary students of West Bengal.
- To find out whether there is significant difference between localities with respect to Internet Addiction.
- To find out whether there is significant difference between Genders with respect to Internet Addiction.
- To find out whether there is significant difference between subjects (science/Arts) with respect to Internet Addiction.

Hypothesis of the study

H₀₁: There is no significant mean difference between boys and Girls students with respect to Internet Addiction.

H₀₂: There is no significant mean difference between village and city area students with respect to internet Addiction.

H₀₃: There is no significant mean difference between Arts and Science subject students with respect to Internet Addiction.

Population: The students of 10+2 level of different schools of West Bengal.

Sample: 600 Students of 10+2 level have been selected randomly as sample among them 304 male and female 296.

Tool used: The present researcher of the study used Internet Addiction test which was constructed by Kimberly Young. The reliability of IAT was found 0.91 and after testing the content validity, the test was found to be a valid test.

Statistical techniques used

Mean, SD for descriptive analysis and t – test for differential analysis were used.

Table 1

Variable	Sample	Number	mean	SD	t – value	significant
Gender	Male	304	30.01	12.244	4.34	Significant at 0.05 levels.
	Female	296	25.81	11.233		
Locality	Village	290	25.6	11.13	0.34	Not significant
	City	310	27.94	12.12		
Subject	Science	390	31.09	12.34	4.90	Significant
	Arts	210	25.02	11.22		

Discussion

1. There is significant mean difference between boys and girls student with respect Internet Addition.
2. There is no significant mean difference between village and city area students with respect to Internet Addition. So it can be concluded that village and city area students do not differ significantly in their Internet Addition Scores.
3. Science and Arts higher secondary students differ significantly with respect to Internet Addition.

Conclusion

Form the above findings the present researcher can say that the Internet Addiction level of male students is higher than their counter part. The Internet Addiction level of village students in lower than that of city students and internet addition level of science students is higher than that of Arts students. So it can be concluded that male students, students

of science of science stream and students coming from city should be aware about Internet Addiction.

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