



Evaluation Of Information And Communication Technology In Education Among Students By Gender And Residence Using Web Browsers And Social Networking Websites With Special Emphasis To Malda, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT:

ICTs are a rapidly expanding set of technologies that may be used to collect, store, and share data amongst people using a variety of devices and media. There are different access patterns to ICTs among rural and urban pupils in Malda district's higher secondary schools in North Bengal. This study used online browsers and social networking websites to emphasise the use of ICT in education among students by gender and domicile, with a focus on Malda, West Bengal. The findings were also assessed in light of the research goal.

Keywords: Education, ICT, Gender, Students, Website, Social.

INTRODUCTION:

ICTs are technologies that can be used to connect information technology devices like personal computers with communication technologies like telephones and their networks. The best illustration is a personal computer or laptop with e-mail and Internet access [1-3]. ICTs as a collection of electronic technologies that, when combined in novel ways, are flexible, adaptable, enabling, and capable of reshaping organisations and redefining social relationships. The number of technologies available is growing all the time, and there is a convergence between new and traditional media [4-6]. As a result, most devices can now be linked to others in order to share and exchange information, allowing them to be classified as ICTs [7-8]. Even books are becoming more integrated with ICTs, whether through the possibility of informal web publishing or more official digital book production with dedicated readers or e-books [9-10]. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the ICT in education among the students by gender and residence with special reference to Malda,

West Bengal. Searching and downloading study materials, sending and receiving associated papers via e-mail, and sharing information via the Internet are all examples of educational uses.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study analyses empirical data from higher secondary school students in the Malda district of North Bengal (West Bengal) on access to, use of, attitude toward, and influence of ICTs, with a focus on the Internet, computer, and mobile technologies. Documentary data was also collected from offices of statistics, municipalities, telecommunications, and other sources. Initially, lists of all students enrolled in various classes were gathered from all eight institutions. The student lists for classes XI and XII were prepared, and they were split by gender into boys and girls, as well as by domicile into rural and urban students, for each class: 699 boys and 716 girls, 848 rural and 565 urban students. In each year of the programme of study, a sample of 35 percent of pupils was taken from each of four strata (rural, urban, boys, and girls), totaling 495 students: rural - 297 (152 boys and 145 girls) and urban - 198. (93 boys and 105 Girls). The data was analyzed using bi-variate and multi-variate tables with percentages, and responses from the sampled students were acquired utilizing a scheduled interview schedule. There are both open-ended and closed-ended questions on the programme.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Web Browsers for Internet Surfing

The web browser is a piece of software or a programme that allows users to access, retrieve, and view documents and other Internet resources. Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, and Safari are the most popular web browsers. Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, MSN Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Hot java, Opera, Google Chrome, and Ask.com are the eight types of web browsers discovered in the survey. As a result, the table below depicts the various types of web browsers used by students when surfing the Internet.

Table 1. Web Browsers for Internet Surfing among the Students

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Types of	No. of Students (%)		Grand Total (%)
	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	

Web Browser	Rural N=149	Urban N=90	Total N=239	Rural N=124	Urban N=90	Total N=214	Rural N=273	Urban N=180	Total N=453
Microsoft Internet Explorer	96 (64.43)	56 (62.22)	152 (63.6)	72 (58.06)	54 (60)	126 (58.88)	168 (61.54)	110 (61.11)	278 (61.37)
Mozilla Firefox	47 (31.54)	25 (27.78)	72 (30.13)	40 (32.26)	21 (23.33)	61 (28.5)	87 (31.87)	46 (25.56)	133 (29.36)
Netscape Navigator	8 (5.37)	3 (3.33)	11 (4.6)	4 (3.23)	5 (5.56)	9 (4.21)	12 (4.4)	8 (4.44)	20 (4.42)
MSN Explorer	11 (7.38)	12 (13.33)	23 (9.62)	16 (12.9)	15 (16.67)	31 (14.49)	27 (9.89)	27 (15)	54 (11.92)
Hot java	9 (6.04)	3 (3.33)	12 (5.02)	3 (2.42)	3 (3.33)	6 (2.8)	12 (4.4)	6 (3.33)	18 (3.97)
Google Chrome	--	4 (4.44)	4 (1.67)	1 (0.81)	1 (1.11)	2 (0.93)	1 (0.37)	5 (2.78)	6 (1.32)
Opera	5 (3.36)	1 (1.11)	6 (2.51)	1 (0.81)	--	1 (0.47)	6 (2.2)	1 (0.56)	7 (1.55)
Ask.com	--	--	--	1 (0.81)	--	1 (0.47)	1 (0.37)	--	1 (0.22)

Source: Field Survey

According to the table, Microsoft Internet Explorer is used by 61.37 percent of students, followed by Mozilla Firefox (29.36 percent), MSN Explorer (11.92 percent), Netscape Navigator, Hot java, Opera, Google Chrome, and Ask.com. The tendency is consistent across genders and student houses (rural and urban).

Websites of Social Networking

Individuals can create a public or semi-public profile within a limited system, establish a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and see and traverse their list of connections as well as those made by others within the system using social network websites. The majority of social network services are web-based and allow members to communicate via the Internet via e-mail and instant messaging. Eight social networking websites were discovered to be frequented by pupils. The following table lists Gmail, Facebook, Wikipedia, YouTube, Twitter, Orkut, Yahoo Mail, Rediffmail, Hotmail, Berkeley,

Hotpop, and Sify.

Table 2: Social Networking Websites among the Students

(Percentage in Parentheses)

Name of Social Networking Website	No. of Students (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Boys (%)			Girls (%)			Rural	Urban	Total
	Rural N=149	Urban N=90	Total N=239	Rural N=124	Urban N=90	Total N=214			
Gmail	75 (50.34)	60 (66.67)	135 (56.49)	54 (43.55)	42 (46.67)	96 (44.86)	129 (47.25)	102 (56.67)	231 (50.99)
Facebook	49 (32.89)	61 (67.78)	110 (46.03)	45 (36.29)	41 (45.56)	86 (40.19)	94 (34.43)	102 (56.67)	196 (43.27)
Wikipedia	57 (38.26)	25 (27.78)	82 (34.31)	45 (36.29)	15 (16.67)	60 (28.04)	102 (37.36)	40 (22.22)	142 (31.35)
YouTube	19 (12.75)	32 (35.56)	51 (21.34)	9 (7.26)	13 (14.44)	22 (10.28)	28 (10.26)	45 (25)	73 (16.11)
Twitter	22 (14.77)	35 (38.89)	57 (23.85)	3 (2.42)	12 (13.33)	15 (7.01)	25 (9.16)	47 (26.11)	72 (15.89)
Yahoo Mail	18 (12.08)	10 (11.11)	28 (11.72)	20 (16.13)	8 (8.89)	28 (13.08)	38 (13.92)	18 (10)	56 (12.36)
Rediffmail	11 (7.38)	12 (13.33)	23 (9.62)	13 (10.48)	10 (11.11)	23 (10.75)	24 (8.79)	22 (12.22)	46 (10.15)
Hotmail	4 (2.68)	3 (3.33)	7 (2.93)	7 (5.65)	13 (14.44)	20 (9.35)	11 (4.03)	16 (8.89)	27 (5.96)

Source: Field Survey

Gmail is used by 50.99 percent of students, with Facebook (43.27 percent), Wikipedia (31.35 percent), YouTube (16.11 percent), Twitter (15.89 percent), Orkut (15.45 percent), Yahoo Mail (12.36 percent), Rediffmail following closely behind. There are no major differences between them in terms of gender or where they live (rural vs. urban). Facebook was created

with college students in mind. Due to the widespread use of the social networking site by users between the ages of 18 and 24, instructors and students have begun to use Facebook in a variety of ways.

CONCLUSION:

Web Browsers for Internet Surfing:

Microsoft Internet Explorer is widely used among students since its features safeguard computers from Internet virus threats. As a result, there are seven different types of web browsers for surfing the internet. Among these, Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) is widely used by students of both genders, as it has held the title of most popular browser in use since its debut in 1995, initially known as Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE), despite stiff competition from Mozilla Firefox, Apple's Safari, Opera, and Google Chrome. Internet Explorer, like most modern browsers, supports Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, RSS, CSS, and Ajax, as well as tabbed browsing, private browsing, and built-in malware and phishing protection.

Social Networking Websites : There are ten websites that provide social networking services to students. Facebook, Gmail, and Twitter are the finest social media sites discovered because each is distinct and accomplishes what it does better than any other site. Users of social media exchange information with one another on a daily basis, sending and receiving data at breakneck speeds. They exchange ideas, tips, tricks, and projects, as well as useful material for classes, among students.

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