

# A STUDY OF ACCESSIBILITY AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET USAGE BY THE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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## **ABSTRACT**

Internet plays an important role in lifelong education and enables students to acquire knowledge and explore possibilities to solve problems. The international commission has aptly observed, "The paramount virtue of the computer is that it releases man from the routine of mental labor, freeing the human mind to specialize in operations where it remains irreplaceable, such as posing problem and taking decisions" The present study is done to find the internet use pattern among college students. For this purpose a sample of two hundred forty college students eight each from Arts, Commerce and Science were selected through simple random sampling technique. The results of the study showed majority of the students have computers with internet facility at their home and on an average they surf internet for an hour. But most of them have been exposed to internet at a very later stage. Though most of them believe that training should be provided to increase internet surfing skills but they have learnt about internet skills by practicing on their own or with the help of their peer group. They are also guided by their teachers time to time, but still they are more inclining towards uses other than educational purposes. Among the three streams, students of science stream have got a favourable perception whereas the students of the commerce and arts group have yet not developed a very clear perception regarding the usage of internet.

**Key words:** Accessibility, Attitude, Internet usage, College students

## **1.0 Introduction**

The international education commission, 1972 rightly reported that in educational system establishment of computers are widely used for solving administrative problems such as payment of salaries, control and funds, invoicing and account. Internet is of immense importance and of course in this era when every aspect of life is being globalized why the education should lie behind? In this process of teaching and learning internet is an innovation as it can be used to further enhance the process and hence fulfill the aim of teaching and learning. By analyzing the use of internet facility by college students, one can give impetus to the point where it is desired and on the other hand discouraging the attitudes which need to be overlooked.

## **2.0 Need and importance of the study**

Internet plays an important role in lifelong education and enables students to The academic landscape in education sector has been comprehensively transformed by the recent advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) consequently; the teaching and learning process along with educational programmes and pedagogy of instruction are being restructured, reformed and realigned to meet expectations of a whole breed of university students. ICT application in education sector can greatly enhance the quality of education. The learners, through multi-faceted ICT application can control the content, time and place of learning. Internet a versatile

medium to meet the information needs of the students. As a result, it has become very popular among the student community. The present study is done to find the internet use pattern among college students stage.

They have been found useful in organizing and in planning and building etc. especially when the volume of data involved in massive, computers can identify, evaluate, collect and classify information in all its complexity and detail and supply it when required.

Internet plays an important role in life long education and enables students to acquire knowledge and explore possibilities to solve problems. The international commission has aptly observed, "The paramount virtue of the computer is that it releases man from the routine of mental labor, freeing the human mind to specialize in operations where it remains irreplaceable, such as posing problem and taking decisions".

With the help of this study, the area of interest of the students would become clearer and the manner they surf the internet would be specified. This knowledge would promote the use of internet in a desired manner by the students. Further negligible researches have been conducted so far on the of internet facility by the college students. So a need to study this topic was felt.

### **2.1 Objectives of study**

1. To study the attitude of college students towards the internet.
2. To compare the perception of students belonging to different streams about the usefulness of internet.
3. To find out whether the students have got any training and guidance.
4. To verify the effectiveness of internet on the college students.
5. To identify attitude of internet use of college students.

### **2.2 Hypothesis**

- There is no significant difference in the perception of the students of science, art and commerce stream about the usefulness of internet.

### **2.3 Variables**

Two categories of variables:

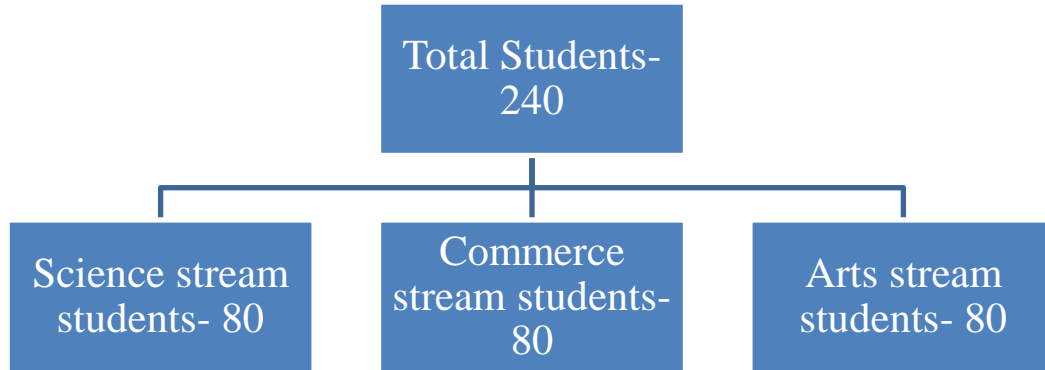
- (i) **Dependent variables** : Internet
- (ii) **Independent variables** : Accessibility & Attitude

### **2.4 Design of the study**

It is descriptive research. For the data collection, a self-prepared questionnaire was used. This questionnaire is consists of two parts: Accessibility and Attitude. Each part consists of 20 questions, Information about the measurement of accessibility and attitude of college students towards usage of internet. Percentages for separate questions were calculated. Chi-Square was found to study out the responses of students.

### **2.5 Sample of the study**

For the purpose of study a sample of 240 college students was taken from two colleges of Ambala district. Care was taken that equal number of students (80) should be selected from each streams: Science, Commerce & Arts.



**2.6 Methodology**

**2.6.1 Descriptive Method**

No category of educational research is more widely used than the type known as the survey method or normative survey or descriptive research. It is connected with present and attempts to determine the status of the phenomenon under investigation. There are three main types of descriptive research. They are:

- Survey Testing
- Questionnaire
- Interview

The present study is a **Survey Testing**.

**2.6.2 Tools used**

Tool used in the form of a **Questionnaire**, developed by investigator to conduct this study. It consists of two parts:

- (i) **Measurement of Accessibility** (20 questions)
- (ii) **Measurement of Attitude** (20 questions)

**3.0 Statistical technique employed**

Percentages for separate questions were calculated. Chi-square was found to see the significant measurement of accessibility & attitude towards internet uses of the college students.

The value of Chi-Square is calculated through a formula meant for this purpose.

**4.0 Results**

**4.1 An overall Analysis of uses, purposes & ways of surfing internet**

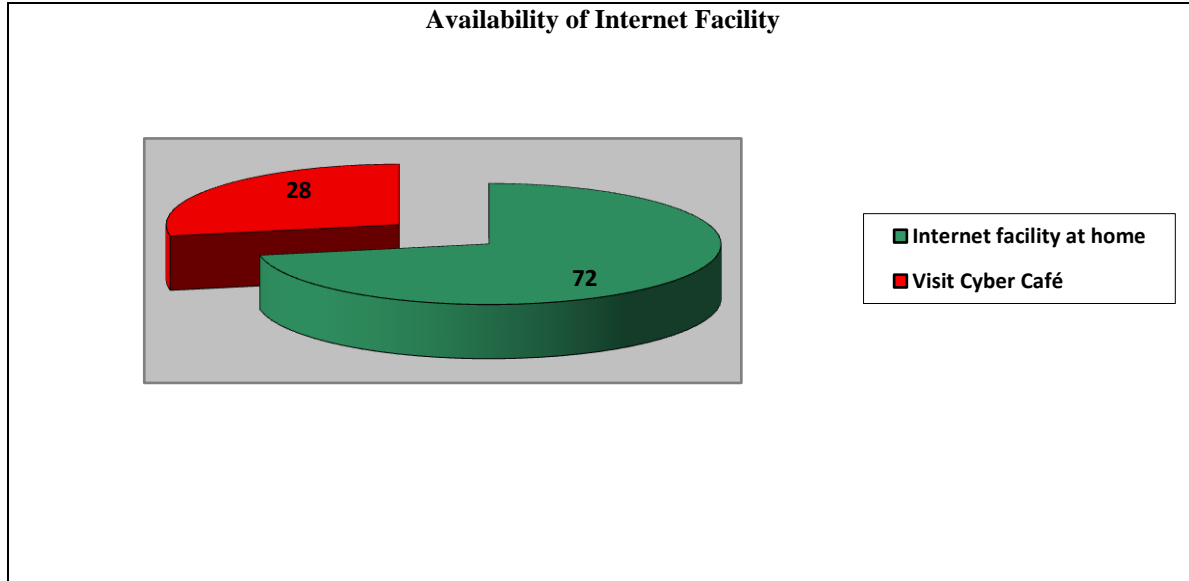
**Table-1 Availability of internet facility**

Sr. No.	Item content	Frequency	% Frequency
1.	Internet facility at home	172	71.81
2.	Visit Cyber café	68	28.19

$X^2 = 11.26$

Table1 reveals that most of the students (71.81%) avail internet facility at home and rest of them (28.19%) often visit to cyber café for using internet.

The value of  $X^2 = 11.26$ , which is significant at .05 & .01 level. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.



The figure shows a good status of the growth, access & use of internet in our daily lives. Government claim that India is shining, is evident in this figure. Hence, technology has become indispensable for our lives.

**4.2 Analysis of the uses, purposes and ways of surfing by science group**

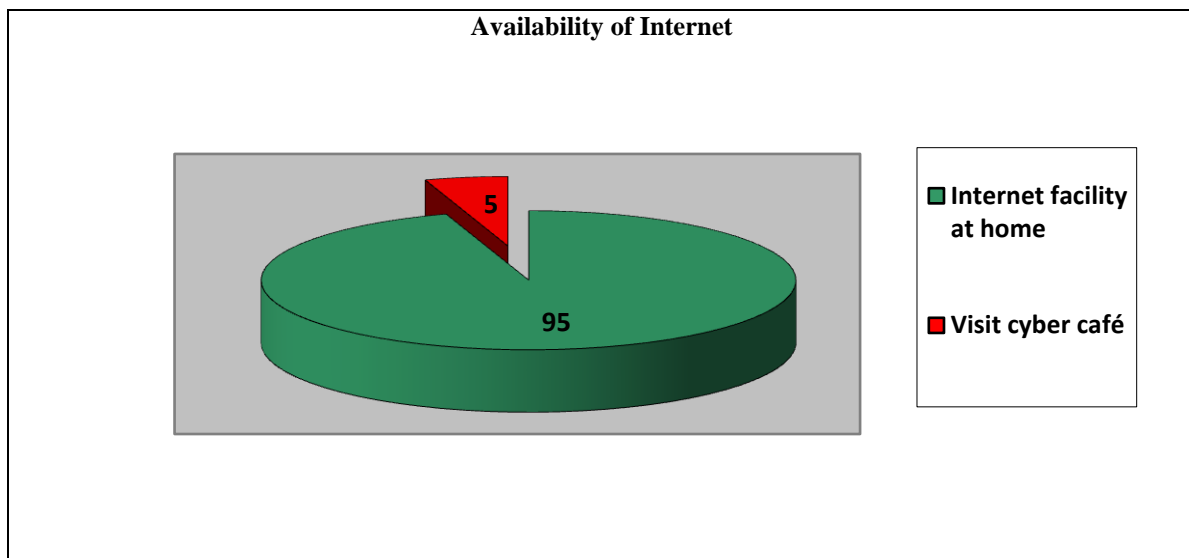
**Table-2 Availability of internet facility**

Sr. No.	Item content	Frequency	% Frequency
1.	Internet facility at home	76	95
2.	Visit cyber café	04	5

$\chi^2 = 16.2$

Table 2 reveals that most of the students (95%) avail internet facility at home and rest of them (5%) often visit to cyber café for using internet.

The value of  $\chi^2 = 16.2$ , which is significant at .05 & .01 level. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.



The figure shows a good status of growth, access and use of internet in our daily lives. Indian government claim that India is shining is evident in this figure. Hence, technology has become indispensable for our lives.

**4.3 Analysis of the uses, purposes and ways of surfing by commerce group**

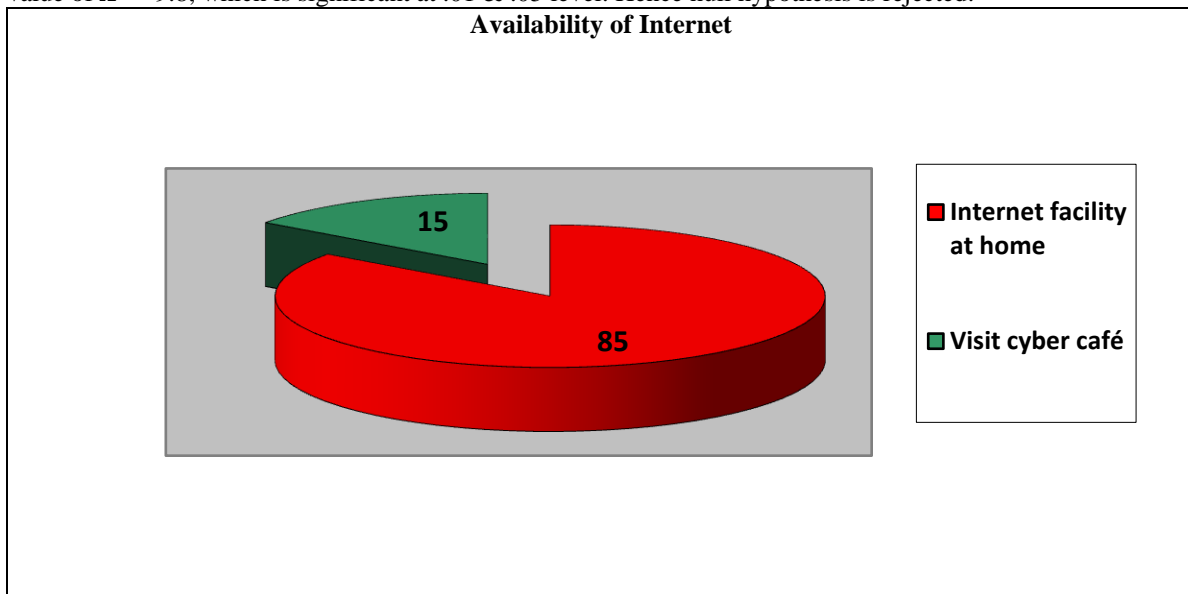
**Table-3 Availability of internet facility**

Sr. No.	Item content	Frequency	% Frequency
1.	Internet facility at home	68	85
2.	Visit cyber café	12	15

$X^2 = 9.8$

Table 3 depicts that most of the students (85%) avail internet facility at home and rest of them (15%) often visit to cyber café for using internet.

The value of  $X^2 = 9.8$ , which is significant at .01 & .05 level. Hence null hypothesis is rejected.



The figure shows a good status of growth, access and use of internet in our daily lives. Indian government claim that India is shining is evident in this figure. Hence, technology has become indispensable for our lives.

**4.4 Analysis of the uses, purposes and ways of surfing by arts group**

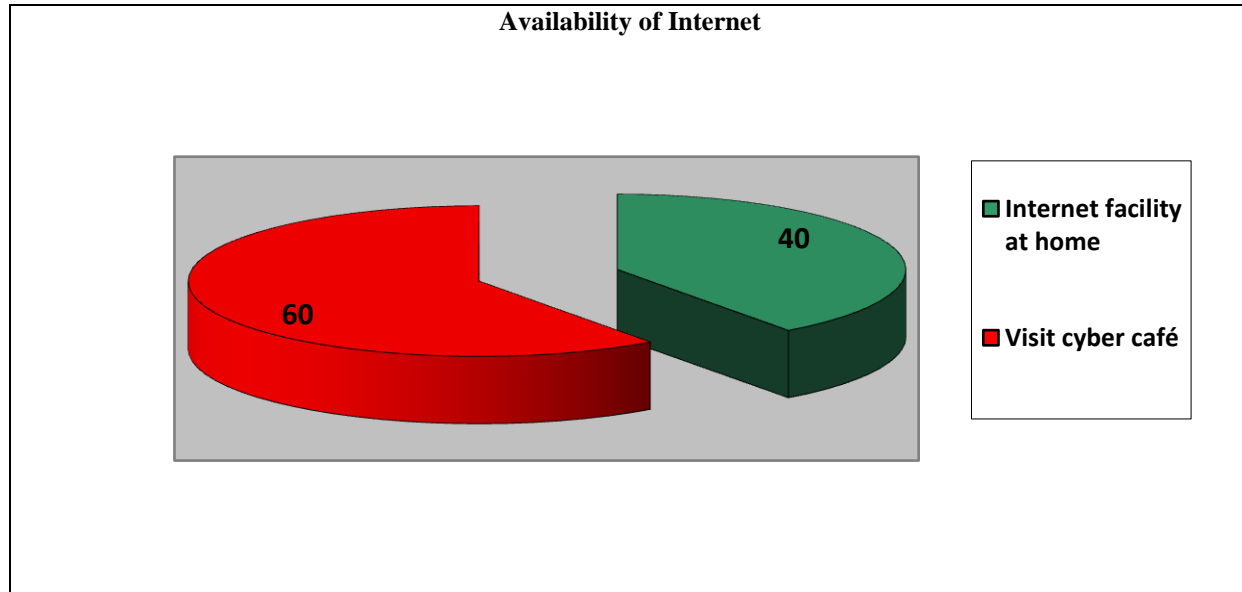
**Table-4 Availability of internet facility**

Sr. No.	Item content	Frequency	% Frequency
1.	Internet facility at home	32	40
2.	Visit cyber café	48	60

$X^2 = 0.8$

Table 4 reveals that most of the students (60%) visit cyber cafe and rest of them (40%) avail internet facility at home. This is a disappointing situation that students of arts group are not advantageous over others.

The value of  $X^2 = 0.8$ , which is not significant at .01 & .05 level. Hence null hypothesis is not rejected.



### 5.0 Findings and conclusions

On the basis of analysis data interpretation of result, following conclusions were drawn:

1. The maximum number of college students from three categories spend one hour per day on internet.
2. The maximum numbers of college student get enough encouragement from their teacher to do internet.
3. The highest number of science group students choose internet for educational purposes.
4. The most of the students avail internet facility at home.
5. The maximum interest shown by three categories is in the field computer and arts group showed less interest in chatting and games.
6. The maximum number of college students used the internet for searching solution of the problem in various ways like most of the students use it sometimes only for finding out the solutions of the problems.
7. The maximum numbers of college students strongly agree that training should be given and is necessary for enhancing the skill of surfing internet.
8. The maximum number of the teachers use internet for the purposes of teaching. They plan their teaching task with the help of computers and these teachers promote their students equally for using internet for academic purposes.
9. The maximum students have been exposed to internet in college level.
10. The most of the college students learnt the various ways of using internet with the help of their teachers.
11. The maximum number of college students has increased their internet surfing skill by practice on regular basis.
12. The maximum number of commerce students use internet sometimes only for finding out the solutions of the problems.
13. The most of the college students seek suggestions from their teachers regarding websites.
14. More science students group reported that they learnt the usage of internet with the help of their peer group.
15. The maximum number of college students open sites randomly to find out the solutions of their problems on internet.
16. Majority of commerce students of Ambala use internet regularly.
17. Very few students in commerce stream are there who are using internet for educational purposes.
18. The students of arts stream use internet for approximately.
19. Most of the arts students visit cyber café to access internet.
20. Most of the students of commerce group have used internet for the purpose of playing games.
21. Most of the students from all three groups enjoy working with internet.
22. Maximum number of students doesn't feel any nervousness using internet.

23. Very few of students are there who think that internet doesn't offer creative abilities to them while most of them were in favour of internet as a tool for offering creative abilities to them.
24. Most of the students from all three groups feel exciting while using internet.
25. Most of the students think that internet provides a lot of career opportunities to its users.

### **6.0 Main Conclusion of the study**

- There is a need for greater policy guidance for young people's internet use.
- Currently, there is a lack of adequate instruction to enable critically-aware internet use.
- Intervention will be required if young people are to use the internet.
- There is little known about the comparative benefits conferred by online & offline activities.
- Though the students have been motivated by the teachers but still they use internet more for purposes other than educational.

### **7.0 Suggestions for further Studies**

- In the final analysis, research-based knowledge pertinent to these conclusions and implications remains limited and more research is needed.
- Further research is needed as the use of internet is an evolving phenomenon at this stage.
- Its use in the under study still seems to be in a state of infancy or early maturation.
- We can very well visualize a situation when all the 100% users will have achieved a near perfection in use of and full dependency on the internet for their information needs.
- What kind of fulfillments they advice then, what kind of problems they come to face and what kind of new demands the system generates in them, will be a matter of far greater interest than it seems today.
- There is a vast scope of future research in different types of user's behavior and comparison of user's behavior towards the Internet.

### **8.0 Delimitations of the Study**

- This study is delimited to college level students only
- This study is limited to usage of internet only, not other electronic device.
- This study is confined to Ambala district only.
- It is determined to only descriptive survey method.

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