



## INTERNET USAGE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC LIFE: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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### ABSTRACT:

In contemporary period internet is used in every field of life. The internet helps in getting information, providing information and in completing information. Now-a-days internet plays a significance role especially in the field of education. The world has become net-savvy and everyone can be seen talking in technical jargons. Technology comes with promises to propel us into the future and cause dramatic improvement in student proficiency and worldwide understanding. Students can receive study material, interact with teachers and classmates, and submit assignments over the internet. Such facility will broaden the range of educational opportunities for the students. Our computer -driven society demands that students should develop the ability to operate in a technological environment, acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive. The timely development of the essential life skills, level of aspiration and self-efficacy may help such students to become independent and self -confident individuals of the society. *The present study is an attempt to explore what the impact of internet among the North Gauhati college students in their academic life.*

### KEYWORDS:

KAMRUP DISTRICT, COLLEGE STUDENT, INTERNET, GAUHATI COLLEGE, ACADEMIC LIFE.

### INTRODUCTION

The internet is the global system of interconnected computer networks that is the internet protocol suite to link devices worldwide. It is a network of networks that consist of private, public, academic, business and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical network technologies. The internet carries an extensive range of information resources and service, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the World Wide Web, electronic mail, telephony and file sharing.

The origin of the internet date back to research commission by the united states federal government in the 1960s to build robust, fault-tolerant communication via computer networks. The primary precursor network ARPANET, initially served as a backbone for interconnection of regional academic and military networks in the 1980s. The funding of the national science foundation network as a new backbone in the 1980s as well as private funding for other commercial extension, led to worldwide participation in the development of network technologies and the merger of many networks. The linking of commercial network and enterprise by the early 1990s marks the beginning of the transition to the modern internet and generated a sustained exponential growth and generation of institutional personal and mobile computers were connected the network. Although the internet was widely used by academia since the 1980s, the commercialization incorporates service and technologies into virtually every aspect of modern life.

Internet used rapidly in the west from the late 1990s in the developing world. In the two decades since then internet use has grown 100-times, measured for the period of one year to over one third of the world population. most traditional communications media, including telephony , radio, television , paper, mail, and newspaper are being reshaped or redefine by the internet giving birth to new service such as email, internet telephony, internet television, online music, digital news paper, and video streaming website. Newspaper, book, and other print publishing are adapting to website technology or are reshaped into blogging web feeds and online aggregators. The internet has enabled and accelerated new forms of personal interactions through instant messaging , internet forums, as it is enables firms to extend their brick and mortar presence to serve a larger market or even sell goods and services entirely online business -to-business and financial service on the internet affect supply chain across entire industries.

Linking one computer with another is called computer network. The field in which computers are linked together provides a platform to transmit and obtain data and information of the field. The internet is the network which links computers all over the world. It is a network in which contribution is made by different organization and individuals. The internet has a world web, called web in brief. This web connects thousand of servers created by different organization and individuals. The web pages available on the servers provide information on different topics, including education. The internet is being used in the educational field in two ways: to get information on education and to get information on any subject. Multimedia can be used at any level of education. It is the

best means of providing distance education and continuing education. Internet is the worthiest media among multimedia. The day is not far when the use of internet would be a common thing in India.

### INTERNET USERS AND POPULATION STATISTICS

Access of Internet and its use among students has become a common thing in India. In our country almost 243 million people use internet in which youth account maximum and the numbers are increasing swiftly every year (Source: *Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI):2014*). Student use the internet for number of purposes and in different places. But researchers argue that internet has changed the social, psychological and academic life of students and making them over smart and mature before their age. Experts also raise the questions that do this technology help to solve student problems and satisfy their various needs or it is just confusing their mind and destroying their moralities. The purpose of the study examines use of internet among student-users, and looks into social and academic usage of internet. It seeks to understand how internet influences student-users in their social interaction and academic performance. In fact, internet use among student community is significant due to high adoption rate, expanding network environment of

the community members and increasing student-users issues. Student-user's net adventures misguide and misinform at times causing problems to their life growth. Hence, to understand more this issue sociological study is essential.

The digital world continues to influence the growth and development of e-education, with a number of trends emerging in this sector. Cloud computing is beginning to be implemented for use at an operational level, resulting in potential infrastructure cost reductions and administration time. Mobile technology is also beginning to be utilized as an education tool, particularly by academic and healthcare organizations. A world-wide computer network that can be accessed via a computer, mobile telephone, PDA, games machine, digital TV, etc. The Internet access service can be provided through a fixed (wired) or mobile network: analogue dial-up modem via standard telephone line, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or ADSL, Cable modem, High speed leased lines, Fiber, Powerline, Satellite broadband network, WiMAX, Fixed CDMA, Mobile broadband network (3G,4G e.g. UMTS) via a handset or card, Integrated SIM card in a computer, or USB modem.

**TABLE NO: 1: INTERNET USERS BY COUNTRY**

SL.NO	COUNTRY	INTERNET USERS (2016)	PENETRATION (% OF POP)	POPULATION (2016)	NON-USERS (INTERNETLESS)	USERS 1 YEAR CHANGE (%)	INTERNET USERS 1 YEAR CHANGE	POPULATION 1 Y CHANGE
1	<u>CHINA</u>	721,434,547	52.2 %	1,382,323,332	660,888,785	2.2 %	15,520,515	0.46 %
2	<u>INDIA</u>	462,124,989	34.8 %	1,326,801,576	864,676,587	30.5 %	108,010,242	1.2 %
3	<u>U.S.</u>	286,942,362	88.5 %	324,118,787	37,176,425	1.1 %	3,229,955	0.73 %
4	<u>BRAZIL</u>	139,111,185	66.4 %	209,567,920	70,456,735	5.1 %	6,753,879	0.83 %
5	<u>JAPAN</u>	115,111,595	91.1 %	126,323,715	11,212,120	0.1 %	117,385	-0.2 %
6	<u>RUSSIA</u>	102,258,256	71.3 %	143,439,832	41,181,576	0.3 %	330,067	-0.01 %
7	<u>NIGERIA</u>	86,219,965	46.1 %	186,987,563	100,767,598	5 %	4,124,967	2.63 %
8	<u>GERMANY</u>	71,016,605	88 %	80,682,351	9,665,746	0.6 %	447,557	-0.01 %
9	<u>U.K.</u>	60,273,385	92.6 %	65,111,143	4,837,758	0.9 %	555,411	0.61 %
10	<u>MEXICO</u>	58,016,997	45.1 %	128,632,004	70,615,007	2.1 %	1,182,988	1.27 %

SOURCE: ELABORATION OF DATA BY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU), UNITED NATIONS POPULATION DIVISION, INTERNET & MOBILE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (IAMAI), WORLD BANK. YEAR: 2016

Above table reflect that India is the second position with 462,124,989 numbers of internet user and china is the first position with 731,434,547 numbers of internet user.

**TABLENO:2 : INTERNET USERS IN INDIA**

YEAR	INTERNET USER	PERCENTAGE(OF POPULATION)	TOTAL POPULATION	NON USERS(INTERNETLESS)	1YUSER CHANGE	1Y USER CHANGE	POPULATION CHANGE
2016	462,124,989	34.8 %	1,326,801,576	864,676,587	30.5 %	108,010,242	1.2 %
2015	354,114,747	27	1,311,050,527	956,935,780	51.9 %	120,962,270	1.22 %
2014	233,152,478	18	1,295,291,543	1,062,139,065	20.7 %	39,948,148	1.23 %
2013	193,204,330	15.1	1,279,498,874	1,086,294,544	21.5 %	34,243,984	1.26 %
2012	158,960,346	12.6 %	1,263,589,639	1,104,629,293	26.5 %	33,342,533	1.29 %
2011	125,617,813	10.1 %	1,247,446,011	1,121,828,198	36.1 %	33,293,976	1.34 %
2010	92,323,838	7.5 %	1,230,984,504	1,138,660,666	48.5 %	30,157,710	1.38 %

2009	62,166,128	5.1 %	1,214,182,182	1,152,016,054	18.6 %	9,734,457	1.43 %
2008	52,431,671	4.4 %	1,197,070,109	1,144,638,438	12.5 %	5,834,088	1.47 %
2007	46,597,582	4 %	1,179,685,631	1,133,088,049	42.9 %	13,995,197	1.51 %
2006	32,602,386	2.8 %	1,162,088,305	1,129,485,919	19.3 %	5,275,016	1.55 %
2005	27,327,370	2.4 %	1,144,326,293	1,116,998,923	22.8 %	3,567,041	1.59 %
2004	22,259,583	2 %	1,126,419,321	1,104,159,738	19.1 %	1,926,786	1.63 %
2003	18,692,542	1.7 %	1,108,369,577	1,089,677,035	11.5 %	9,689,725	1.67 %
2002	16,765,756	1.5 %	1,090,189,358	1,073,423,602	136.9 %	1,518,576	1.71 %
2001	7,076,031	0.7 %	1,071,888,190	1,064,812,159	27.3 %	1,518,576	1.75 %
2000	5,557,455	0.5 %	1,053,481,072	1,047,923,617	96.5 %	2,729,647	1.79 %

SOURCE: ELABORATION OF DATA BY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU), WORLD BANK, AND UNITED NATIONS POPULATION DIVISION

## ONLINE EDUCATION IN INDIA: TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

In India, internet penetration of about 31% today which means 409 million internet users. The Government of India has taken certain initiatives in recent years such as SWAYAM, e-Basta, and Digital India is expected to strengthen the infrastructure needed by students to pursue education in online mode. As per recent report released by KPMG India and Google, the market for online education in India is expected to witness a magnificent growth of eight times in three years i.e. from USD 247 million in 2016 to USD 1.96 billion in 2021. Such high growth in online education market is projected to be the outcome of increased number of paid online education users from 1.57 million in 2016 to 9.5 million in 2021.

So, as the market for e-learning is predicted to grow multiple times in the coming years. With the development of technology, India has witnessed an enhanced acceptance of online education over a period of few years. Many students and working professionals have joined

different e-learning platforms in the past few years in order to enhance their skills. Looking at trends, the number of people adopting online education platforms is expected to increase significantly in the near future.

## NORTH GAUHATI COLLEGE

The North Gauhati College is located in Kamrup district of Assam. The Kamrup district is situated between 25.46° and 26.49° North Latitude and between 90.48° & 91.50° East longitude. The district is bounded by:- North – Udaluri and Baska district. South- Meghalaya. East- Darrang district KamrupMetropolitan District. West- Goalpara District and Nalbaridistrict. National highway 31 and 37 passes in the Kamrup district. Geographical Area- 4,34,500 hector. Population of Kamrup district is 35, 96,292 and literacy rate- 70.95 % (Source: Census 2011). The North Gauhati College is established on September 4, 1962 is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning is located at North Guwahati. The college campus spread 33 bighas of land. The College is situated on the northern bank of the river Brahmapurta just opposite to the city Guwahati.

**TABLE NO 3: CLASS WISE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS**

CLASS		ARTS	SCIENCE	TOTAL
H.S	1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	80	200	280
	2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR	50	180	230
DEGREE	1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	150	150	300
	2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR	150	150	300
	3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR	150	200	350
TOTAL		580	880	1460

SOURCE: NORTH GAUHATI COLLEGE REPORT: 2017

Total number of students in North Gauhati College is 1,460. There are two streams in North Gauhati College- Arts and Science. In arts stream 580 students and in science stream there are 880 students in this college.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was collected on both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data was collected from journal, books; newspaper etc related to the topic has been consulted with view of present study in right perspective. Primary data was collected from internet user students in North Gauhati College. Interview schedule was used for primary data collection. Total sample size will be 50 students. The sample was selected by random sampling method. After

data collection from both primary and secondary sources was processed and analyzed by simple but meaningful statistical techniques for objective and logical interpretation.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION DATA

Data analysis is considered to be important step and heart of the research in any research Endeavour. The process of data evaluation with analytical and logical reasoning leads to examine each of its components. The foremost task before the investigator, after the collection of data, is its compilation and careful tabulation which finally leads us to meaningful inferences. Data analysis is a process of assigning meaning to the collected information to

determine the conclusions, significance, and implications of the findings. The social profile of respondent is shown in

following table:

**TABLE :4 : SOCIAL PROFILE**

RESPONDENT	AGE GROUP		RESPONDENT	SEX CATEGORY	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
16 YRS-18YRS	25	50%	MALE	24	48%
19YRS-21YRS	22	44%	FEMALE	26	52%
22YRS-24YRS	3	6%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>
RESPONDENT	LEVEL OF EDUCATION		RESPONDENT	MAIN EARNER	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
H. S 1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	8	16%	FATHER	40	80%
H. S. 2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR	21	42%			
DEGREE 1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	3	6%	MOTHER	9	18%
DEGREE 2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR	11	22%	BROTHER	1	2%
DEGREE 3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR	7	14%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

**SOURCE: FIELD STUDY**

**AGE GROUP:** Data indicate that half of the respondents (50%) are from 16-18 years age groups. Besides these 44% of the respondents are from 19-21 years age groups and only 6% respondent are from 22-24 years age groups.

**SEX CATEGORY:** In terms of sex category of the respondent it is found that more than half of the respondents (52%) are female, and 48% are male.

**LEVEL OF EDUCATION:** Above data shows that 42% of the respondent are higher secondary 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, 22% of the respondent are degree 2<sup>nd</sup> year student, 16%

of the respondent are higher secondary 1<sup>st</sup> year student, 14% of the respondent are degree 3<sup>rd</sup> year student and 6% of the respondent are degree 1<sup>st</sup> year student.

**MAIN EARNER:** In term of main earner of respondent family above data show that most of the respondent's father (80%) is main earner of their family, 18% each respondent's mother is the main earner of the family and 2% each respondent's family depend on their brother income.

**TABLE :5 : INTERNET USAGE**

RESPONDENT	SOURCE OF INTERNET USE		RESPONDENT	IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MOBILE PHONE	25	50	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	5	10
LAPTOP + MOBILE PHONE	24	48	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	10	20
DESKTOP + MOBILE PHONE	1	2	VERY IMPORTANT	35	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>
RESPONDENT	LOCATION OF INTERNET USE		RESPONDENT	LIBRARY VISIT	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
AT COLLEGE	5	10%	YES	30	60%
AT HOME	15	30%	NO	20	40%
BOTH	30	60%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>
FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USING					
TIME SPENT	ACADEMIC		NON-ACADEMIC		
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	
0-3 HOUR	43	86	15	30	
4-6 HOUR	2	4	26	52	
7-9 HOUR	0	0	4	8	
10 OR MORE HOUR	5	10	5	10	

TOTAL	50	100%	50	100%
SOURCE: FIELD STUDY				

**SOURCE OF INTERNET USE:** Above data shows that half of the respondents (50%) use mobile phone. 48% of the respondent use laptop and mobile phone and 2% of the respondent use desktop and mobile phone for internet purpose.

**IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET:** Data indicate that 70% users consider internet is very important for their academic life. While 20% users consider somewhat important and 10% users consider not very important in their academic life.

**LOCATION OF INTERNET USE:** Data indicate that most of the respondents (60%) are use internet both at college and home. Beside this 30% of the respondents are use internet at home and 10% of the respondents are use internet at their college.

**LIBRARY VISIT:** From the above data it can be seen more than half of the respondent (60%) is visit library and 40% of the respondent are not visit library. Moreover,

most of the respondents are view that they are not satisfied with library internet facilities.

**FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USING:** Data reflect that majority of the respondent using internet for academic purpose (86%) are 0-3 hour. 10% of the respondent using internet for academic purpose 10 or more hour. using internet for academic purpose. And 4-6 hour use internet for academic purpose only 4% respondent. However, more than half of the respondents (52%) are use internet for non-academic purpose 4-6 hour. 30% of the respondent are use internet for non-academic purpose 0-3 hour 10% of the student use internet for non-academic purpose more than 10 hour and 8% of the respondent are use internet for non-academic purpose .

### AREAS THAT STUDENTS FEEL SUFFICIENT

The respondent were asked they feel sufficient enough while using the Internet for educational purposes. Respondent view in this regard is shown in following table:

ITEMS	INSUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	QUIET SUFFICIENT
TO USE SEARCH ENGINES LIKE GOOGLE , YAHOO ETC.	2%	3%	95%
TO FIND THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET	1%	39%	60%
TO DOWNLOAD PICTURES OR PHOTOS FOR HOMEWORK OR PROJECTS	30%	20%	50%
TO DOWNLOAD OR WATCH VIDEOS RELATED TO LESSONS	10%	60%	30%
TO READ NOTES AND OTHER WRITINGS RELATED TO LESSONS FROM DIFFERENT WEB SITES	40%	50%	10%

SOURCE: FIELD STUDY

Above table shows that areas that most of the participants felt themselves sufficient. Most of the respondent are felt sufficient or quiet sufficient to search different items in internet for academic purpose.

### CONCLUSIONS

Internet have made a major impact on education. This raises hopes in countries like India which are undergoing rapid growth in their educational efforts. In this study majority of the students believed they can use the Internet as an educational tool. Internet has effected great revolutionary changes in the form of present education. The expansion of teacher and distance education are its greatest contributions. Internet can be used at any level of education. The day is not far when the use of internet in the field of education would be a common thing in India. The government should take steps in this direction as may be possible. Its use would save on both time and energy. Only a very small amount of respondent stated that they were not able to use it for educational purposes, which is very promising for the future. There were certain areas that students felt comfortable while using the Internet

such as the search engines on the Internet, which is easily and efficiently used. The respondent also view that they are use social websites to share knowledge and talk about subjects. They also claimed that they could easily use the Internet to find sources of information, download necessary files and pictures and so on which are helpful for their study purpose.

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