

Internet Usage and its effect on Aggressive behaviour of class IX Students

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Abstract: Internet is a global linking of computer for information transfer. Internet usage becomes common activity of children and adults. Problems arising from excessive internet use have been documented worldwide including India. Aggression is the feeling of anger often harmful, social interaction with the intention of inflicting damage upon another individual. This study examines the impact of internet usage on aggressive behaviour of standard IX students. The sample of the study comprised of 282 students studying in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. Simple random sampling technique was used to select sample from the population. The survey method was employed for collecting data. The collected data was analysed and made inferences. It was found that there was no significance relation between Internet usage and Aggressive behaviour of class IX students.

1. INTRODUCTION

The development and spread of user-friendly computer technology and software, the use of the internet has increased dramatically. The internet technology has provided an extraordinary level of public accessibility to a wide range of communication. Empirical studies suggest that internet addiction like other well researched addictive behaviour has an effect on many aspects of a person's life including academic/work performance, relationship, and physical and mental health. Problems arising from excessive internet use have been documented worldwide, including in India, where the use of internet has increased noticeably.

Significance of the study

There has been an explosive growth in the use of internet not only in India but also worldwide. Internet usage through mobile phones is increasing rapidly with 75% of nonvoice usage being devoted to entertainment, where video and audio music streaming, online gaming are major growing activities. In a study carried out Nalwa and Anand(2004) among school children 16-18 years old in India. It is found that student delay other work to spend time online, lose sleep due to late logon's and feel life would be boring without internet. These may give rise to psychological disturbance like aggression, depression, anxiety among the students. Aggression behaviour is a major issue of present society, which is a reason of many socially unacceptable activities happening in our surrounding as well as in school environment. Aggressive behaviour can be seen in many anti-social activities like incidents of misbehave with teacher with teachers bullying peers etc. Students aggression is today burning problem in the society. Thus the study tries to find out the effect of aggressive behaviour of school students.

Objectives

1. To find out the level of internet usage of standard IX students.
2. To compare Internet usage of standard IX students with regards to gender, locality of school, Family income.
3. To find out the level of aggressive behaviour of Standard IX students.

4. To compare aggressive behaviour of standard IX students with regards to gender, locality of school, Family Income.
5. To find out the relation if any, between Internet usage and Aggressive behaviour of Standard IX students.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in Internet usage among Standard IX students with regard to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in Internet usage among Standard IX students with regard to locality of school.
3. There is no significant difference in Internet usage among Standard IX students with regard to family income.
4. There is no significant difference in Aggressive behaviour among Standard IX students with regard to gender.
5. There is no significant difference in Aggressive behaviour among Standard IX students with regard to locality of school.
6. There is no significant difference in Aggressive behaviour among Standard IX students with regard to family income.
7. There is no significant relation between Internet usage and aggressive behaviour of Standard IX students.

2. METHOD OF THE STUDY

The survey method was employed to compare Internet usage and aggressive behaviour of standard of IX students with regard to gender, locality of school and family income and how far these two variables were correlated.

Sample

A sample of 282 IXth standard students studied in government and private schools of Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu was selected by simple random sampling technique.

Tools used

Two tools were used to collect data.

Internet usage scale- A self-made tool by researcher

Aggression scale- Developed by Dr.Rajeev Lochan Bhardwaj.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

Percentage analysis, Independent sample test for large groups and one-way ANOVA were used to analyse data.

Table 1: Level of Internet Usage of Standard IX Students

Variables	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Internet usage	124	50.74	107	33.68	51	15.59

The table 1 shows 50.74% that of standard IX students have low level of internet usage.

Table 2: Significance of Difference in Internet Usage of Standard IX Students with regard to Gender

Dimensions	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Internet Usage	Male	182	59.56	9.25	0.103	0.000**
	Female	100	49.65	10.53		

** - Significant at 1% level

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.000) is less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is NOT ACCEPTED at 1% level of significance. It means that there is significant difference in internet usage of standard ix students with regard to gender. On comparing the mean scores, it is understood that the male students have more internet usage than female students.

Table 3: Significance of Difference in Internet Usage of Standard IX Students with regard to Locality of School

Dimension	Locality of school	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Internet Usage	Rural	77	52.37	9.44	0.089	0.000**

** - Significant at 1% level

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.000) is less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is NOT ACCEPTED at 1% level of significance. It means that there is significant difference in internet usage of standard ix students with regard to locality of school. On comparing the mean scores, it is understood that the urban school students have more internet usage than rural school students.

Table 4: Significance of Difference in Internet Usage of Standard IX Students with regard to Family Income

Dimension	Family Income	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Total(%) Internet Usage	Below 8000	210	55.11	10.48	0.720	0.018*
	Above 8000	72	58.77	11.35		

*- Significant at 5% level

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.018) is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is NOT ACCEPTED at 5% level of significance. It means that there is significant difference in internet usage of Standard ix students with regard to family income. On comparing the mean scores, it is understood that the students of family income as above 8000 have more internet usage than students of family income as below 8000.

Table 5: Level of Aggressive Behaviour of Standard IX Students

Variables	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Aggressive behaviour	136	46.98	105	39.14	41	13.87

The table shows 46.98% that of standard IX students have low level of aggressive behaviour.

Table 6: Significance of Difference in Aggressive Behaviour of Standard IX Students with regard to Gender

Dimensions	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Total Aggressive Behaviour	of Male	182	59.18	14.05	0.289	0.000**
	Female	100	49.19	12.15		

** - Significant at 1% level

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.000) is less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is NOT ACCEPTED at 1% level of significance. It means that there is significant difference in aggressive behaviour of standard ix students with regard to gender. On comparing the mean scores, it is understood that the male students have more internet usage than female students.

Table 7: Significance of Difference in Aggressive Behaviour of Standard IX Students with regard to Locality of School

Dimensions	Locality of School	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Total Aggressive Behaviour	(%) Rural	77	53.91	14.12	0.826	0.211 ^{NS}
	Urban	205	56.29	14.23		

NS- Not Significant

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.100) is greater than 0.01, the null hypothesis is ACCEPTED at 5% level of significance. It means that there is no significant difference in internet usage of standard ix students with regard to medium of instruction.

Table 8: Significance of Difference in Aggressive Behaviour of Standard IX Students with regard to Family Income

Dimensions	Family Income	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	p-value
Total Aggressive Behaviour	(%) Below 8000	210	56.13	13.989	0.257	0.335 ^{NS}
	Above 8000	72	54.19	14.856		

NS- Not Significant

In the above table, since the p-value (=0.335) is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is ACCEPTED at 5% level of significance. It means that there is no significant difference in aggressive behaviour of standard ix students with regard to family income.

Table 9: Relationship between Internet usage and Aggressive behaviour

Variables	r - value
Internet usage	0.475
Aggressive behaviour	

In the above table, since the r – value (=0.475) is greater than 0.01, the null hypothesis is ACCEPTED at 1% level of significance. It shows that there is no relationship between internet usage and aggressive behaviour.

4. FINDINGS

1. Two fourth of IXth standard students had low level of Internet usage.
2. There is a significant difference in Internet usage of Ix standard students with regards to gender. The male students had more Internet usage than female students.

3. There is significant difference in Internet usage of IX students with regards to locality of school. The urban school students had more internet usage than rural school students.
4. The students of family income as above 8000 had more internet usage than students of family income as below 8000.
5. Two fourth of IXth standard students had low level of Aggressive behaviour.
6. The male students had more aggressive behaviour than female students of standard IX.
7. There was no significant difference in aggressive behaviour of standard IX students with regards to type of school and family income.
8. There was no relationship between Internet usage and aggressive behaviour.

5. DISCUSSION

In this study, majority of the students who use internet were males which is being supported by other studies. Another important observation is that the gender gap is reducing significantly in using internet over the years.

Findings revealed that students who are studying in rural schools have low level of internet usage. This is because the school in villages provide computer education only after 9th or 10th class. The level of computer with internet and related infrastructure is very limited in rural schools when comparing with schools in cities.

Modern technology and open media changed the thinking and values of both boys and girl students. But the finding revealed that there is no association between internet usage and aggressive behaviour.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- It was a small study with financial and time constraints. A large comparative study may be planned by including some other districts in Tamil Nadu
- Reasons for aggressive behaviour and its effect on their academic achievement of student may be investigated
- Parents responsibilities regarding use of internet and other modern technologies may be studied

7. CONCLUSION

Modern technology is a boon for new generation and it should be utilized in the right spirit. Internet usage can lead to access knowledge increase skills, at the same time it can also spoil adolescent's life. If students do not know the proper way to use internet, there is a high chance that may be misled. Thus the teacher, parents, and policy makers need to be aware on the importance of students internet usage, risk-taking behaviours and taking safety steps in preventing any hazards.

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