

## Reframing the role of internet space in the field of Education

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### ABSTRACT

*In today's world Internet is inevitable. We live in a society where information is free flowing without any hassle. The interconnected network links transfers several billion data's through computers and mobile phone worldwide. Communication became easier with the advent of social media & new electronic gadgets. To gather basic information students rely on Internet. The rapid growth of information & communication technologies has fizzled creative blend of social media into current pedagogical applications and processes. In near future social media can become a part of education system, which will bridge between work & education. Students always pay more attention when it comes to visual medium. Especially in social media, it lays a platform to interact and share information instantly. When students retrieve information through online source the reliability and validity of the information is questionable. All the data's that students browse are not trustworthy. The researcher adapted focus groups as a qualitative research methodology to address the issue by analyzing - How Internet acts as a new age classroom to acquire knowledge from the student's perspective.*

*Keywords—internet; classroom; online; knowledge; education*

### I.INTRODUCTION

Over the period, Internet usage has seen tremendous growth. The number of Internet users across the world increased to 3.9 billion from 3.65 billion. **By 2018, 55 percent of the world's population had access to computers with 5.6 billion Google searches every day, 77% Internet users reading blogs, and 5 billion videos viewed daily on YouTube** – Refer Fig 1.1 source International telecommunication union. India stands second biggest nation in internet usage, with high social & mobile audience. Due to the advent of high speed internet service, provider's information can be accessed as and when it is required. The all new Wi-Fi technology and in the near future Li-Fi technology, Broadband connection, Data card, mobile data shall help the users to stay connected for a longer period of time in internet. Consumers always look for better Electronic gadgets with compatibility and durability. Internet helps to access information by numerous means. Each and every day there are lots of data that is being transferred across the internet. The eco friendly internet system saves more trees by e-format. For example: E-books, e- business, e-commerce, etc.

Reputed education institution in the world provides internet facility for students to access information that they require. Educational material is available in the internet for all categories of students from pre- schools to doctoral

research. In particular most of the scholarly articles are published and accessed through internet. Google scholars provide users to access top- end scholarly articles.

Internet has also enabled new forms of social interface, activities and organizing. Social media paves a right path to share about different fields through instant messages, ideas and knowledge. Based on online strategy research reveals that average internet usage by Indians are

- 21% - number of rural Indians using internet
- 66% - growth in Indian internet users in India over the past 12 months
- 478 millions - number of Indians who access only the internet via mobile devices. ((IAMAI) and KANTAR-IMRB)
- 8 hrs – average time an Indian user spends time on social media.(www.soravjain.com)
- 85% of Indian internet users who watch online videos.(statista.com)

A recent research by Euromonitor reveals that the Internet usage by the year 2020 will be 43.7% in the world. The highest penetration by the number of users will be from Iceland, Netherland & Norway almost 90% of the population are expected to use internet by the end of 2020. It is evident that the comprehensive study about internet reveals that internet has a large impact in every individual's life.

## **1.1 OBJECTIVES**

- To identify the impact of Internet in higher education
- To study the positive & negative impact of free flowing information
- To identify how Internet can be used as a new age classroom.
- To study the scope of social media as a tool for education

## **1.2 METHODOLOGY**

Focus group research strategy was adopted by the researcher to collect the information from students between 17 to 19 age groups. The researcher played the monitor role with confined group of 15 male students and 15 female students in a classroom under each age group by conducting three different sessions, which put together a total of 45 male and 45 female respondents. The research conducted on the same topic is compared with other age groups to determine whether there were any similarities or differences.

## **II.SUMMARY**

### **2.1 The usage of internet:**

Respondents belonging to the age group 17 were asked about maximum internet usage per day. Almost all the respondents using smart phones were connected for a minimum of 3 hours per day. But when compared with the other two age groups the average hours connected with internet is approximately 4 hours per day. Some are exceptional from all the three age groups using internet for more than 5 hours per day.

### **2.2 Device used to connect Internet:**

Majority of the students from all three age groups uses mobile phones to connect online because it is cost effective. Some of the Respondents belonging to the age group of 17 use personal computers and laptops to connect online. Since, they are new to college atmosphere parents have control over this age group. So only a small numbers uses smart phones. Respondents belonging to 18 & 19 age group demand smart phones from parents to connect online. Some of them use Tablets to connect online.

### **2.3 Online connectivity:**

Respondents from all the three groups widely use mobile data & Wi-Fi devices as their reliable source to connect online. Respondents using PC rely on broadband or fixed land line connections.

### **2.4 Preferred Networks:**

As each service provider comes with different packages respondents have their own selection of choice. But majority of them using JIO network as it comes with attractive mobile data packages. This is where the moderator faced problems because of varied opinion and irrelevant discussion.

### **2.5 Internet & Its uses:**

Respondents belonging to all the age groups were mostly using internet for socializing with friends & relatives. They spend nearly 80% of their time in social media & applications. 20% of their time is spent to complete their assignments & projects.

### **2.6 Impact of Internet in higher education:**

The respondents from all the age groups mostly depend on internet to complete their assignments and projects. And the respondents accessing or downloading information from the internet source were not validating the data. They are not aware of Google scholars and research articles published in internet. Since, the respondent submits a hard bound thesis it is very difficult for the evaluator to check for plagiarism. Most of them have a guilty feeling that they claim someone else's work. But they still justify that they do it for their career benefit.

### **2.7 Free flowing information in the web world:**

After examining the respondents from all the three age groups the researcher found that the free flowing information is an advantage for the respondent to collect information. Search engines like Internet explorer, Google chrome, Firefox, Safari play a vital role in searching information. All the respondents were familiar with these search engines. Majority of the students from all the three age group use Google search engine to gather information. Respondents also share information through social media. Every individual respondent shared true information that they came across in social media with their beloved ones.

## 2.8 Internet – A new age classroom to acquire knowledge:

Majority of the students from all the age group goes with the concept that internet is a new age class room to acquire knowledge. After comparing all the age groups the researcher had found the following:

- Respondent not only search subject related topics rather they also search and gain knowledge in different fields.
- The respondents from all the age groups have problem in identifying authentic information through internet.
- Most of them are not interested to search from hard bound books rather, they are interested in e- books.
- Respondent demand Internet or Wi-Fi connection in each classroom to verify and discuss the information they gather from lectures.
- The adolescent respondents said that topics related sex can be easily viewed and clarified.
- They think that they have freedom over selection of information.
- Almost all the respondents feel that a guide for each subject is enough in higher education.

## 2.9 Social media as a tool for education:

Excessive attachment over social media claimed a red carpet welcome for this question. Respondents from the age group of 17 said that Social media can be used as a tool for education. They find classroom lectures are monotonous and boring. Respondent belonging to the age group of 18 said that social media will help to overcome one way communication issue. It will open up more interactive methods in teaching. The age group of 19 said that social media will help them to get different perspective and student involvement for difficult topics. On the whole respondents consolidate that social media will be more interactive and make subjects more interesting. Female respondents said that social media will spoil the learning atmosphere since, the teacher may not know whether the student is active or not. They also fear that irrelevant comments from students may disrupt the seriousness behind the topics and chapters. Some of the respondents suggest that educational institution should come up with unique social networking sites for the students and for others with excellent monitoring methodology.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- ❖ The study upholds the fact that the respondents prefer internet as a tool for education.
- ❖ Mobile phones are widely preferred and cost effective to connect internets.
- ❖ It is evident that students face difficulties in reliability and validity of the information.
- ❖ It is evident that students are addicted to social media and spend more time in socializing.
- ❖ Internet is used to acquire knowledge in different fields.
- ❖ The study suggests that educational institution should come up with unique social networking sites for the students and for others with excellent monitoring methodology.
- ❖ The study also reveals that social media will help to get different perspective from students.

#### IV. FIGURES & TABLES

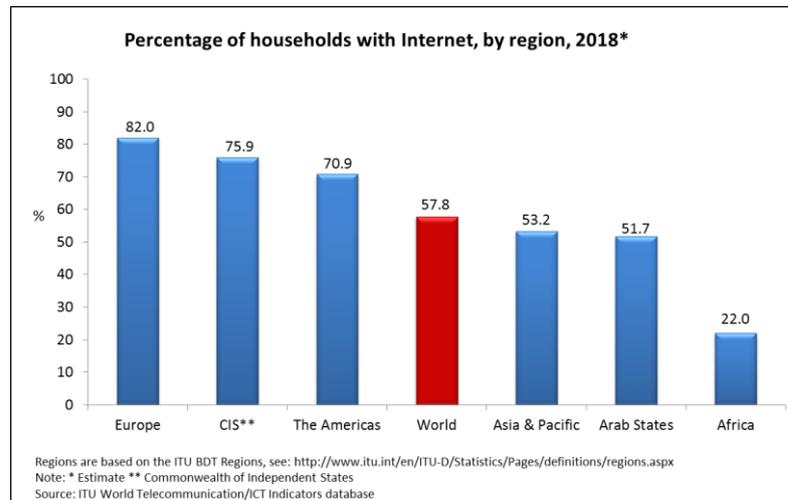


Fig.1.1 Source: International telecommunication union. Internet Usage

#### V.CONCLUSION

Students, research scholars and teachers are empowered with different electronic gadgets to access internet. Internet always play an integral part in education. Unless it is carefully monitored and executed Internet cannot play an alternate role in education. Social media widely used by young generation are said to be an effective means when it comes to interaction. It opens a new way of teaching methodology which can't be executed with current social networking tools. On the whole the traditional teaching methodology can't be eradicated or replaced with the internet. But internet can be designed as an effective tool in the near future.

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