

**A Study of Preferential Purposes of Using Internet By
Undergraduates**

Dr. Vibha Laxmi

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut, U.P.

India

Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the preferential purposes for which using internet by undergraduates. In this research descriptive survey method was used. The research selected 11 institutions of higher education of Agra city, U.P., India by incidental sampling and the purposive sampling method was used to select undergraduates Internet users. 108 Arts students (56 male, 52 female), 111 Commerce students (52 male, 49 female) and 131 science students (63 male, 68 female) were selected as Internet users. Self made questionnaire developed by researcher for finding various purposes of using Internet by Undergraduates. For the analysis of data, subjects were asked to provide preferential order to the various purposes for which they are using Internet. The various given preferences converted the weighted scores and summed. Finally the ranks were provided from highest sum of weighted score to the least sum of weighted score. After analysis, it was found that the most preferential use of Internet of undergraduates is to update the news available. In relation to sex it can be concluded that both male and female undergraduates are using Internet for the purpose of their academic career and achievement. But there is a difference in their preference order. The male undergraduates are using Internet mainly for search of content and female are using Internet mainly for the purpose of completing the projects. It is also concluded that there is a variation in the preferential use of Internet by the undergraduates of Arts, Commerce and Science streams. The Arts students mostly use Internet for entertainment purpose. While commerce students mainly use the Internet for completing assignment and the Science students gave first preference to search of content.

1.0 Introduction:

Internet is the name given to a vast and wonderful system that connects people and information through computers. It has been called the greatest boon to literacy. Internet technology, the powerful tool is a reflection of the spirit of human beings, a product of their minds, hearts and imagination. The most exciting aspect of today's Internet is the empowerment it offers knowledge power. Today Internet enables people from all over the world to share ideas and knowledge. Internet has established itself as a permanent member of our society. It extends human capabilities, making it possible for people to do what previously was beyond their limits. It has the capability of transforming its www into a powerful multi- communication medium incorporating elements of books, magazines, mail, radio, television, telephone and the personal computer as well. Internet is relatively reliable, cheap and bureaucracy free means of moving information about the world.

The degree to which college students use the Internet as an information and reference source suggests that they are very likely continue to turn to the Internet for information in the future. They are already heavy consumers of online health, financial and travel information, and may come to trust the Internet as an information source more than the generation preceding them. In short, the web has become an information cornerstone for them. The high degree to which today's college students perceive the Internet as something used for fun means that they do not limit their use to work or learning. College students are a group primed for interactive entertainment. Although most did not report the Internet as being a primary entertainment device in their lives, the degree to which they use it for socializing makes the Internet an important leisure activity.

According to latest research given in a special issues of Departmental Psychology published by the American Psychological Association, teenagers and college going students, use the Internet to email, instant message, visit chat room and explore other sites on the world wide web. It is generally observed in our day to day life that parents and teachers ask children to use the Internet for increasing their performance. But Internet is used by children not just for their

recreation but also for increasing their knowledge. Keeping all these points in consideration the present study has been taken up.

2.0 Statement of the problem

“A Study of preferential purposes of using Internet by undergraduates”.

3.0 Objectives:

1. To study the preferential purposes of using Internet by the undergraduates.
2. To study the preferential purposes of using Internet by the undergraduates with reference to their gender.
3. To study the various preferential purposes of using Internet by the undergraduates with reference to their streams of education.

4.0 Method of Research:

Descriptive Survey method of research was used in this study.

5.0 Sampling procedure

Internet Users 350	Arts 108	Male 56
		Female 52
	Commerce 111	Male 52
		Female 49
	Science 131	Male 63
		Female 68

Selection of the Institutes-

For the purpose of collecting data the researcher selected 11 institutions of higher education of Agra city, U.P., India. The environmental conditions and teaching facilities were almost same in these institutions. Colleges of higher education were selected by using incidental sampling method.

Selection of the students- The purposive sampling method was used to select the undergraduates Internet users. Sample distribution as under:

Selection of the Tool:

Self made questionnaire developed by researcher for finding various purposes of using Internet by Undergraduates students.

6.0 **Statistical Techniques:** For the analysis of data, students had to give preference from 1 to 10 for various purposes. For every preference weighted score was decided from 1 to 10 by the researcher which is as under-

preferences	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Weightage	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

After that, sum of weighted score was calculated. The purpose for which the sum of weighted score was maximum, was ranked as 1 and the purpose with minimum weighted score was ranked as 10.

7.0 Analysis & Interpretation of Data:

To know the various purposes for which undergraduates are using Internet the reactions expressed on the questionnaire have been analyzed and discussed as under.

7.1 To Study the preferential purposes of using Internet by the undergraduates.

In the given questionnaire the subjects were asked to provide preferential order to the various purposes for which they are using Internet. The various given preferences converted the weighted scores and summed. Finally the ranks were provided from highest sum of weighted score to the least sum of weighted score. The results obtained are presented in the table given below –

Table.01 Total sum of preferences and corresponding ranks to the various purposes for which undergraduates are using Internet

S.No.	Various purposes	Total preference (weighted scores)	Rank
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1.	Search of content	1775	2
2.	Chatting	1648	6
3.	Completing Assignment	1778	1
4.	Project	1708	4
5.	Entertainment	1666	5
6.	Visiting adult sites	720	10
7.	Preparation of notes	1616	7
8.	Seminar or G.D.	1422	9
9.	To find mathematical solution	1437	8
10.	News update	1731	3

A careful observation of the table- 01 indicates that the first preferential use of Internet by the undergraduates is to complete the assignment which they submit for their academic achievement. Their second preference for the use of Internet is to search of contest for study subjects. Their third preference is to update the news available on the Internet, these news may be regarding their educational and occupational careers. The fourth preference for the use of the Internet is to complete their project work which they have got as their sessional work. Their fifth and sixth preference for the use of Internet are entertainment and to chat with the friends and relatives. The seventh preference is to prepare the notes of various subjects. They have given eighth and ninth preference for using Internet to find mathematical solution and to prepare the write-ups of seminar and group discussion respectively. The undergraduates also visit adult sites when they get opportunity, but they have given to it last preference.

In brief it can be said that undergraduates are using Internet for the purpose of educational and vocational career as well entertainment also. The findings of the present study are in support of the findings of *Brockington, worda Goins (2004)and Keizer, Jenka(2001)* said that the students' main purpose of using Internet to completing home assignment and grades

outside of the class room. *Alkhezzi, Fahad, A.* (2003) indicated that most of the students use of Internet for completing assignments.

7.2 To study the preferential purpose of using Internet by the undergraduates with reference to their gender

To know how far the sex variable cause variation in the preferential use of Internet by the undergraduates. The preferences given by the male and female undergraduates for which they are using Internet was analyzed and compared. The results obtained are presented in the table given below -

Table.2 Preferences as given by the male and female undergraduates to the various purposes to use the Internet

S.No.	Various purposes of using Internet	Total preference (weighted score) of male	Rank	Total preference (weighted score) of female	Rank
1.	Search of content	900	1	820	4
2.	Chatting	868	3	724	6
3.	Completing Assignment	895	2	864	2
4.	Project	847	6	882	1
5.	Entertainment	857	4	777	5
6.	Visiting Adult sites	351	10	369	9
7.	Preparation of notes	796	8	820	4
8.	Seminar and G.D.	808	7	680	8
9.	To find mathematical solution	721	9	704	7
10.	News up date	868	5	857	3

A careful comparative observation of the table - 02 reveals that there is a difference in the

purpose for which male and female undergraduates are using Internet. The male undergraduates are using Internet for the purpose to search of content materials for their study subjects,

completing the given assignments, chatting, entertainment purpose and for update the news and various information regarding educational and occupational careers. As they have given to these 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th rank respectively. *Mehra, Vandana & Amandeep (2005)* said male and female students like to spend time on chatting. While the female undergraduates are using Internet mainly for the purposes to complete the project, to complete the given assignments, news update search of content and preparation of notes.

Here it is important to note that both male and female undergraduates have given same ranks i.e. 2nd to complete the given assignments. *Brockington (2004)* indicated that the male college students are more likely than their female counterparts to use the Internet for recreational purposes. *Al. Motrif, Abdulrahman, F. (2001)* said that fewer female graduates and undergraduates, as well as male graduates use the Internet for entertainment purpose.

The female undergraduates have given 4th rank to search of the content, while the male undergraduates have given first preference to it. *Mania, Avani & debalina, Talaptra (2002)* said that male senior master students use the Internet for searching content and completing assignment. The female undergraduates have given first preference to complete the given project while the male undergraduates have given 6th preference to it. For the purpose of preparation of notes, female have given 4th preference, while the male undergraduates have given to it 8th preference. For the preparation of seminar and group discussion the females have given 8th preference, while the male undergraduates have give to it 7th preference. To update the news, females have given to it 3rd preference, while the males have given 5th rank. For the entertainment female groups have given to it 5th rank, while males have given to 4th rank. *Brockington (2004)* indicated that the male college students are more likely than their female counterparts to use the Internet for recreational purposes. *Al. Motrif, Abdulrahman, F. (2001)* said that fewer female graduates and undergraduates, as well as male graduates use the Internet for entertainment purpose. For mathematical solutions female undergraduates have given to it 7th rank while the males have given 9th rank. For visiting the adult sites both the male and female undergraduates have given 10th and 9th rank respectively. In brief it can be said that the first five uses of Internet by male graduates are search of content, completing assignment, chatting, news update and entertainment. This shows that male undergraduates use Internet for educational

purpose (search of content and completing assignment) and for chatting, news and entertainment. The first five uses of Internet by female graduates are completing projects, completing assignment, news update, preparation of notes and entertainment. This shows that females use Internet more for educational purposes than that of males, news update, and entertainment are common purposes of using Internet by male and female undergraduates.

7.3 To study the preferential purpose of using Internet by the undergraduates with reference to their streams of education

The preferential purposes to use Internet by the undergraduates of different streams of education viz. Arts, Commerce and Science was also studied and compared. The results obtained are presented in the table given below -

Table. 3 The preferential purpose to use Internet by the undergraduates studying Arts, Commerce and Science streams of education

S. No.	Streams of Education Various Purposes	Arts		Commerce		Science	
		Total preferences (weighted scores)	Rank	Total preferences (weighted scores)	Rank	Total preferences (weighted Scores)	Rank
1	Search of content	499	8	563	3	699	1
2	Chatting	615	2	465	8	487	8
3	Completing assignment	523	6	591	1	543	5
4	Project	532	5	547	4	637	3
5	Entertainment	626	1	506	5	521	7

6	Visiting adult sites	293	10	206	9	223	10
7	preparation of notes	522	7	487	6	540	6
8	seminar or G.D.	535	4	487	6	592	4
9	To find Mathematical Solutions	498	9	468	7	423	9
10	News update	541	3	581	2	650	2

A careful comparative study of the table no. 3 indicates that there is a vast difference in the purposes to use Internet by the undergraduates of Arts, Commerce and Science streams of education. The Arts undergraduates have given the 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences to entertainment, chatting and for news update. On the other hand Commerce undergraduates have given 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference to use Internet for the purpose of completing assignment, news update and search of content, respectively. While the Science stream undergraduates have given 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference to use Internet for the purpose search of content, news update and completing project works. *Mania, Avani & debalina, Talaptra (2002)* said that male senior master students use the Internet for searching content and completing assignment they are studying in science stream.

The Arts stream undergraduates are using Internet for their seminar and G.D. project work and completing their class assignments at the rank 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. The

Commerce undergraduates too given the 4th and 5th order of preference for the project work and entertainment, but they have given 6th preference to preparation of notes. On the other hand Science undergraduate have given 4th, 5th and 6th preference to seminar and G.D., completing given assignment and preparation of the notes respectively. Arts and Commerce undergraduates have given 7th preference to find out preparation of notes and mathematical solution respectively while Science undergraduates have given 7th preference to the use of Internet for entertainment. The Arts undergraduate have given 8th preference to the search of content, Commerce group had given 8th preference to chatting, while Science undergraduates have given 8th preference to prepare their seminar and G.D. papers. The Arts and Science undergraduates both have given 9th preference to mathematical solutions while Commerce undergraduates have provided 9th preference visiting adult sites. On the other hand Arts and Science undergraduates have given 10th preference to visit adult sites.

In brief this can be said that there is a high variation in the preferential use of Internet by the undergraduates of Arts, Commerce and Science streams. Among these three Science group of undergraduates are using Internet much for their educational and occupational purposes and Arts students are using Internet more for entertainment chatting and news update (1st, 2nd and 3rd preference). The Commerce undergraduates are using Internet for completing assignments, news update and searching content (1st, 2nd and 3rd preference). This shows that there is difference between the purposes of using Internet by Arts, Science and Commerce undergraduates.

8.0 Results and Discussion

It was found that the most preferential purpose of using Internet by undergraduates is to update the news available. In relation to sex it can be concluded that both male and female undergraduates are using Internet for purpose of their academic career and achievement. But there is a difference in their preference order. The male undergraduates are using Internet mainly for search of content and female are using Internet mainly for the purpose of completing the projects.

It is also concluded that there is a variation in the preferential purpose of using Internet by the undergraduates of Arts, Commerce and Science streams. The Arts students mostly use Internet for entertainment purpose. While commerce students mainly use the Internet for completing assignment and the science students gave first preference to search of content.

9.0 Educational implication of the study:

1. Arts Students should be encouraged to work more on the Internet for academic purpose rather than recreational purpose. Attitude of teachers should be encouraging and should inspire the students to work on the Internet as an innovative way to gain knowledge and update information, awareness of Internet should be increased.
2. The teachers should give such assignments and projects to their students in which for collecting new information, students need to use Internet and for presenting their work more logically, originally, attractively he/she has to take the help of computer. Teachers should use the computer in their classroom teaching and thus they can improve the quality of classroom interaction
3. Boys Students are advised to use Internet for correct purposes, not only for chatting but also other academic purpose like news update, seminar & completing project.

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