
**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT
AND ALLIED SCIENCES (IJBMAS)**
A Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

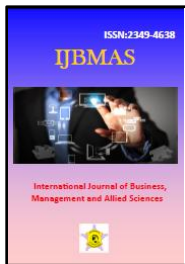
A CRITICAL REVIEW ON INTERNET USAGE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the introduction about Internet and usage of Internet in India, with an explanation of the implications of the Internet for the developing world. Starting with a brief history of the development of the Internet, the paper describes the 10 best uses of internet in the present scenario. In India, use of internet is enormous, especially in the young population. Hence, it was found necessary to study pattern of internet usage in young adults in Indian setting and its relationship with their mental and physical health. With this background, we undertook the present study to take a close look on this issue.

Key words: Internet; usage; communication; education

INTRODUCTION

If you are starting an education at a major university, college, or even high school, you are going to have to add one more thing to your list of things to do that first week. After you stand in line to sign up for classes, stand in line to purchase your books, and stand in line to get your financial aid check, head over to your computing center and find out about getting an Internet account.

Most colleges and universities make Internet accounts available to students, and some high schools have started doing the same. Don't miss the boat; get your account and start cruising the Net. It could be the best investment in your education that you ever make.

I know you're probably thinking the Internet is just for computer geeks. Well, it used to be, but that's changing fast. You'll be amazed at the sheer volume and variety of stuff you can find on the Internet, from information about zebras for that big zoology test to the latest Ren and Stimpy wallpaper for Windows.

The Internet today is a widespread information infrastructure, the initial prototype of what is often called the National (or Global or Galactic) Information Infrastructure. Its history is complex and involves many aspects – technological, organizational, and community. And its influence reaches not only to the technical fields of computer communications but throughout society as we move toward increasing use of online tools to accomplish electronic commerce, information acquisition, and community operations.

About Internet

Think of the Internet as millions of computers that can talk and share information. What kinds of computers? Every-thing from the lowliest 286s and Apple IIs to sophisticated workstations running UNIX, NT, and other hot operating systems. What kinds of information? Well, correspondence certainly (a.k.a. e-mail), but more than just that. Graphics and video clips are making digital trips every second of every day, as are Supreme Court decisions, the latest O.J. jokes, and lots, lots more.

The Internet is run by the people who are on it. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the Internet is used in positive ways. New people are coming online every minute now. That's a lot of people, a lot of new ideas, a lot of potential.

What Can I Do on the Internet?

A lot. The Internet is defining a whole new culture and you have an opportunity to be part of it, but more than that, you have an opportunity to shape it, to add or detract from it. Be careful. What you do on the Net counts. The most wonderful thing about this is that you will do it all from your personal computer. Shaping cyberspace belongs to those with access to the tools. So get access and learn the tools. I'm not saying it's going to be easy. In fact, some of it's going to be a downright pain in the neck. You'll need to increase your frustration threshold and decrease any tendencies you may have to shrink when confronted with a challenge. Ask a lot of questions and push a lot of buttons.

Here's a sampling of what you can do:

1. Send and Receive E-mail
2. Use all Databases all over the World
3. Join in on Discussion Groups
4. Download programs and other Goodies
5. Chat with other people

History of Internet

22 years of the Internet in India. On August 15, 1995, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) launched public Internet access in India.

With over 460 million internet users, India is the second largest online market, ranked only behind China. By 2021, there will be about 635.8 million internet users in India. Despite the large base of internet users in India, only 26 percent of the Indian population accessed the internet in 2015. This is a significant increase in comparison to the previous years, considering the internet penetration rate in India stood at about 10 percent in 2011. Furthermore, men dominated internet usage in India with 71 percent to women's 29 percent.

Indians often turn to mobile internet, as the large majority of the digital population in India were mobile internet users in 2016. About 323 million people in India accessed the internet through their mobile phones in 2016, which corresponds to about 24.3 percent of the country's population. Both figures are forecast to increase in the coming years, with projections to amount to 524.5 million and around 37.4 percent respectively in 2021. Mobile internet usage in India varies according to people's living areas. As of 2016, India had an estimate of 262 million mobile internet users living in urban communities, and 109 million living in rural areas.

The following table provides an overview of key internet subscriber statistics in India as on 30 September 2017.

| <i>Statistic</i> | <i>Figures</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Total subscribers | 429.23 million |
| Narrowband subscribers | 104.34 million |
| Broadband subscribers | 324.89 million |
| Wired subscribers | 21.35 million |
| Wireless subscribers | 407.88 million |
| Urban subscribers | 299.83 million |
| Rural subscribers | 129.41 million |
| Overall net penetration | 33.22 % |

Urban net penetration 73.65 %

Rural net penetration 14.62 %

Usage of Internet in India

Internet is today one of the most important part of our daily life. There are large numbers of things that can be done using the internet and so it is very important. You can say that with the progress in the internet we are progressing in every sphere of life as it not only makes our tasks easier but also saves a lot of time. Today internet is used for different purposes depending upon the requirement. Here in this very article we have mentioned then ten best uses of the internet. Here goes the list.

1. **Communication:** At the moment the easiest thing that can be done using the internet is that we can communicate with the people living far away from us with extreme ease. Earlier the communication used to be a daunting task but all that chanced once internet came into the life of the common people. Now people can not only chat but can also do the video conferencing. It has become extremely easy to contact the loved ones who are in some other part of the world. Communication is the most important gift that the internet has given to the common man. Email, social networking sites are some of the prime example of it. This is one such gift of the internet which is cherished by everyone and has made our life easier to much extent.
2. **Research:** Now the point that has been placed next is research. In order to do research you need to go through hundreds of books as well as the references and that was one of the most difficult jobs to do earlier. Since the internet came into life, everything is available just a click away. You just have to search for the concerned topic and you will get hundreds of references that may be beneficial for your research. And since internet is here to make your research public, you can then benefit a large amount of people from the research work that you have done. Research is one such thing which has got lots of benefit from this evolution of internet. Research process has now got wings and has gained the most due to the internet.
3. **Education:** The next point that we have in this list is education. Yes you read it right. Education is one of the best things that the internet can provide. There are a number of books, reference books, online help centres, expert's views and other study oriented material on the internet that can make the learning process very easier as well as a fun learning experience. There are lots and lots of websites which are related to different topic. You can visit them and can gain endless amount of knowledge that you wish to have. With the use of internet for education, you are non-longer dependent on some other person to come and teach you. There are various number of tutorials available over the internet using which you can learn so many thing very easily. There can't be any excellent use of the internet other than education as it is the key to achieve everything in life.
4. **Financial Transaction:** The next use mentioned here is financial transaction. Financial transaction is the term which is used when there is exchange of money. With the use of internet in the financial transaction, your work has become a lot easier. Now you don't need to stand in the queue at the branch of your particular bank rather you can just log in on to the bank website with the credential that has been provided to you by the bank and then can do any transaction related to finance at your will. With the ability to do the financial transaction easily over the internet you can purchase or sell items so easily. Financial transaction can be considered as one of the best uses of resource in the right direction.
5. **Real time Updates:** Real time updates have been placed at the number fifth position here. This has been mentioned here in regards to the news and other happenings that may be on-going in different parts of the world but with the use of internet we come to know about it very easily and without any difficulty. There are various websites on the internet which provides you with the real time updates in every field be it in business, sports, finance, politics, entertainment and others. Many a time the decisions are taken on the real time updates that are happening in various parts of the world and this is where internet is very essential and helpful.

6. **Leisure:** Leisure is the option that we have next in the list. Yes you heard it right. Right from watching your favourite videos to listening songs, watching movies, playing games, chatting with the loved ones has been possible due to internet. Internet has progressed with so much pace that today whenever you get time, you just move on to the internet and so such activities which helps you to relax. Leisure is one of the most important uses of internet and that has surely one thing that attracts people towards it. Internet is home of some of the excellent resources using which you can freshen up your mood in minutes
7. **Online Booking:** Do you remember the time when the only way to book the railway tickets or bus tickets or plane tickets was to visit their centres at the designated location? That time has completely changed and today everything is available at the mouse click. This has been possible only because of the internet. Not only the online booking process is easier as well as less tedious but is also reliable. There is no need to visit the booking counters to book tickets or to contact the agents that might ask for more money in order to process your request. You can do all these things sitting at home, using internet. This is the reason it has been placed at the number seventh place in this list. The booking process has simplified because of the internet and this is the best use of the resources that you have.
8. **Job search:** Job search is one such thing which required updates from every corner as well the patience from the person searching for it. Using internet, this has become an easier task. Job search has been placed at the number eighth place. There are endless amount of websites on the internet that provided with the news about the vacancy in various companies. You just need to get yourself registered at these website and they will do the rest. They will not only send you the email mentioning job vacancy according to your choice but will also help you to select the best out of them. Job search is easier now, all thanks to internet else it was a nightmare earlier.
9. **Blogging:** There are many people who are very much interested in writing blogs and for them internet is the best place. They can not only write blogs as per their wish but can also publicize their work so that their work reaches to most of the people and they get appreciated. There is huge number of websites over the internet which allows you to write blogs. You just need to get yourself registered as per their procedure and then start writing. And if your blogs are really good and so many people visit your blog then there is chance that you might get elected to write blogs for big organisations. Blogging has reached to all new level with the help of internet and is one such use which is beneficial to everyone.
10. **Shopping:** Yes you read it correctly. This very list starts with the point mentioned as shopping at the tenth place. Shopping has now become one of the most pleasing things to do using the internet. Whenever you find time, just visit the concerned websites and order the items that you need from there. Those items will be delivered to you in best possible time. There is huge number of options available for a common people to buy or to sell any particular item using the internet. Using internet now it is possible to buy products from all over the world.

Conclusion

The internet has had many impacts on education, including making the possibility of a fully accredited online degree possible. It has provided students with the makings for both their success and their demise with online and hybrid classes. The biggest impact though, though, has been a positive one, and it outweighs all the negative ones we have discussed. That impact is choice. The internet has allowed students to pick their path from more than the 2 options of old. Allowing students to choose the education path that is right for them has been an essential change in our society.

Since we found the impacts on education, social interactions, and media to be positive, we can conclude that the impact of daily internet use on our lives has been mostly positive, although we will need to work to overcome the challenges that this (not so new anymore) technology has brought us.

The evolution of information technology reached a turning point with the development of the Internet. Once a government project, the Internet was created for military purposes. Through the course of its development, researchers began finding other uses for the network, and use of the technology spread worldwide. Access to the Internet today by individuals, businesses, and institutions alike has created a global market for Internet service and has spurred an increase in productivity in the technological communication field.

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