

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# Factors associated with the internet utilization behaviour of the students of S.D. Agricultural University

**■ MOHMMAD YUNUS AND A.S. SHEIKH****ARTICLE CHRONICLE :****Received :**

08.01.2017;

**Revised :**

10.03.2017;

**Accepted :**

22.03.2017

**SUMMARY :** Internet has become a way of life for majority of higher education students all around the world. For most college students, the internet is a functional tool, one that has greatly changed the way they interact with each other and with information as they go about their studies. With internet many students prepare course assignments, make study notes, tutor themselves with specialized multimedia, and process data for research projects. Most students exchange e-mails with faculty, peers, and remote experts. They keep upto- date in fields on the internet, accessing newsgroups, bulletin boards, and websites posted by professional organizations. Most students access library catalogs, bibliographic databases, and academic resource in text, graphics and imagery on the World Wide Web. Internet is an inter-connection between several computers of different types belonging to various networks all over the globe. It is a network of networks. The kind of colossal powers that the internet gives yours machine is mind- boggling. To send or receive data within a matter of seconds to someone placed beyond the pacific was unthinkable before the advent of the internet. The internet represents the transformation and evolution of the entire information age. It is due to these factors that people all over the globe have recognized the internet as their latest developmental tool. "Internet" is one of the tool of communication. Internet has changed life as a few things have done. It has added a new dimension to our existence by placing within easy reach, mind boggling range of information. It gives each of us the option to be as publisher of our information and views, and as the numbers of people on internet multiply and commerce transforms the internet, the opportunities are getting larger.

**KEY WORDS :**

Internet utilization behaviour, Factor associate, Agricultural university, Students

**How to cite this article :** Yunus, Mohmmad and Sheikh, A.S. (2017). Factors associated with the internet utilization behaviour of the students of S.D. Agricultural University. *Agric. Update*, 12(2): 224-228; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/12.2/224-228.

**Author for correspondence :****MOHMMAD YUNUS**

B.A. College of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, ANAND (GUJARAT) INDIA  
Email:mohmmad\_yunus@yahoo.com

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Internet provides the benefits to academic community as: quick, global and convenient access and exchange of information with experienced people and expert in any field; easy dissemination of

research findings; enhanced collaborative research and others activities and ability to use some software and expand the capability of one's competencies. "Internet technology of communication, its universal acceptance by communities and subsequent globalization

within a short span of a few years is a classic example of what sustained investment and commitment to research and development have been achieved.” There are some factors which affect the utilization of internet by the boys and girls students. Keeping all these points in view, the present study on effect of internet utilization on overall performance of SDAU students was undertaken.

## **RESOURCES AND METHODS**

The present study was conducted in Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU), Sardarkrushinagar (Gujarat), which was purposively, selected. SDAU, has eight constituent Colleges, out of which two colleges *i.e.* C.P. College of Agriculture (CPCA) and College of Veterinary science and Animal Husbandry (CVS&AH) were selected purposively due to the reason that all the students of these colleges have been provided internet facility at free of cost.

A lists of boys and girls students from Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctor of Philosophy degree, registered in 2011-12 were prepared with the help of records of students sections of the selected colleges and from these lists 100 internet utilizing students from CPCA and 100 internet utilizing students from CVS&AH were selected for this study by using simple random sampling method in such a way that internet utilizing boys and girls students from different colleges were selected in the ratio of 70:30. Hence, from each college a sample of 70 male and 30 female internet utilizing students were selected by using simple random sampling. In this way a total sample comprised of 200 internet utilizing students (140 boys and 60 girls students) from Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

For measuring the internet utilization on overall performance of the SDAU students an interview schedule was developed by the investigator in light of the suggestion of the experts. The data were collected by personal interview method. The data collected were classified, tabulated and inferences were drawn after subjecting the data to correlation analysis which led to the following major findings.

## **OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS**

The association between the internet utilization

behaviour of boys and girls SDAU students and the selected independent variables *viz.*, their age, marital status, educational qualification, academic achievement, educational level of father, educational level of mother, native place, type of family, size of family, family income, medium of instruction, exposure to extra-curricular activities, expertise in navigating the web, place of living at the time of education, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, frequency of library use and wish to serve in different areas were measured by computing “co-efficient of correlation (r)”. The data have been presented in Table 1.

A critical examination of the data presented in the Table 1 revealed that in case of the boys SDAU students the age, marital status, education qualification, academic achievement and native place were positively and significantly correlated with their internet utilization behaviour at 0.01 level of probability, while their education level of father, medium of instruction, place of living at the time of education, wish to migrate abroad and wish to get higher academic degree were positively and significantly correlated with their internet utilization behaviour at 0.05 level of probability.

Whereas in case of girls SDAU students their age, marital status, educational qualification and place of living at the time of education and were positively and significantly correlated, whereas their frequency of library use was negatively and significantly correlated with their internet utilization behaviour at 0.05 level of probability.

In case of boys SDAU students, their education level of mother, type of family, size of family, family income, exposure to extra-curricular activities, expertise in navigating the web and wish to serve in different areas were positively and non-significantly correlated, whereas their frequency of library use was negatively and non-significantly correlated with their internet utilization behaviour. Similarly in case of girls SDAU students their academic achievement, education level of father, native place, family income, medium of instruction, expertise in navigating the web, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree and wish to serve in different areas were positively and non-significantly correlated, whereas their education level of mother, type of family, size of family and exposure to extra-curricular activities were negatively and non-significantly correlated with their internet utilization behaviour.

This leads to the conclusion that the boys SDAU student’s age, marital status, educational qualification,

academic achievement, educational level of father, native place, medium of instruction, place of living at the time of education, wish to migrate abroad and wish to get higher academic degree had a significant effect on their internet utilization behaviour, whereas in case of girls SDAU students, their age, marital status, educational qualification, place of living at the time of education and frequency of library use had a significant effect on their internet utilization behaviour.

The positive and significant association between the age and internet usage behaviour of boys and girls SDAU students might be due to the fact that the older SDAU students might have more accessed the internet surfing facilities available in the college than the younger SDAU students due to their lower expertise in using internet. This might also be due to the fact that the older agricultural research scholars might have more confidence in internet, because they might have experienced about its positive effect on their education and research for getting latest information. The findings are in line with the findings of Moussa (2012). However, these findings are not in conformity with the findings of Patel (2004); Patel (2006); Shah (2006) and Garwhal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the marital status and internet usage behaviour of boys and girls SDAU students might be due to the fact that the

married girls might have utilized internet not only for their academic works but also for communicating with their husband through chatting, video calling etc., whereas the unmarried girls might have used internet only for their academic work. These findings are not in conformity with the findings of Garwhal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the educational qualification and internet usage behaviour of boys and girls SDAU students might be due to the fact that students in under graduate courses might have used internet less due to their less experience in utilizing internet, whereas the P.G. and Ph. D. students might have used more internet due to filling different examination forms and appearing in different competition examination. These findings are in line with the result of Patel (2004); Patel (2007); Shah (2006) and Garwhal (2010) who found that the internet usage of students is not associated with their father education.

The positive and significant association between the academic achievement and internet usage behaviour of boys SDAU students might be due to the reason that the boys SDAU students with good academic achievement might have used internet for getting latest data and information to enrich their knowledge and expertise in different subjects to improve their OGPA by using latest data and information related to their exam preparation

**Table 1: Association of selected independent variables of the boys and girls SDAU students with their internet utilization behaviour (n = 200)**

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Boys students (n=140)	Girls students (n=60)
1.	Age	0.280**	0.305*
2.	Marital status	0.341**	0.323*
3.	Educational qualification	0.440**	0.285*
4.	Academic achievement	0.231**	0.190
5.	Educational level of father	0.195*	0.143
6.	Educational level of mother	0.052	-0.037
7.	Native place	0.240**	0.236
8.	Type of family	0.011	-0.041
9.	Size of family	0.031	-0.101
10.	Family income	0.101	0.179
11.	Medium of instruction	0.168*	0.028
12.	Exposure to extra -curricular activities	0.158	-0.042
13.	Expertise in navigating the web	0.027	0.112
14.	Place of living at the time of education	0.201*	0.319*
15.	Wish to migrate abroad	0.183*	0.013
16.	wish to get higher academic degree	0.190*	0.007
17.	Frequency of library use	-0.032	-0.254*
18.	Wish to serve in different areas	0.009	0.202

\* and \*\* indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

whereas, it was non-significantly correlated with the internet utilization of girls SDAU students who might have developed less interest and confidence in internet use as compared to reading with class notes and library books. They might also not use internet more because it might have affected negatively their academic performance as it reduced their reading time. These findings are in line with the result of Patel (2007) and Moussa (2012) who found that the internet usage of students is not associated with their father education.

The positive and significant association between the educational level of father of boys SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that the highly educated parents of the students might have provided them facilities for surfing internet as they might have experienced the benefits and advantages of internet on the overall performance of their children. The findings are in line with the findings of Patel (2007) and Moussa (2012).

The positive and significant association between the native place of boys SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that the students with rural background might have used less internet because of their less exposure towards internet because of the less availability of the facilities of internet surfing in villages as compared to the urban students who might have enjoyed the facilities for surfing internet in different cybercafés available in the towns and cities. The findings are in line with the findings of Garhwal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the medium of instruction of boys SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that for internet surfing the knowledge of English is compulsory hence the students with Gujarati or Hindi medium of instruction might have faced more problems in surfing internet resulting in low internet utilization as compared to the students with English medium of instruction who due to their fluency in English might have used more internet. However, the findings are not in line with the findings of Garhwal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the place of living at the time of education and the internet usage behaviour of boys and girls SDAU students might be due to the fact that the students living in hostel might have used more internet because in most of the hostels now-a-days the internet facility is made available to the

students at free of cost resulting in more utilization of internet by the students as compared to non-hosteller students who have to pay for using internet in cybercafés resulting in limited internet utilization by them. The findings are in line with the findings of Garhwal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the wish to migrate abroad of boys SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that the students who want to migrate abroad for higher studies or jobs might have used more internet in search of different scholarships, admissions, vacancies etc. in addition to their class work or competition examinations, whereas the students who don't want to migrate abroad might use internet only for their class work or competition examinations. The findings are in line with the findings of Chauhan (2004); Patel and Chauhan (2005); Patel (2007) and Garhwal (2010).

The positive and significant association between the wish to get higher academic degree of boys SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that the students who want to get higher academic degrees might have used more internet in search of different scholarships, admissions in addition to their class work or competition examinations. However, the findings are not in line with the findings of Patel (2004); Chauhan (2004); Chauhan (2005); Shah (2006) and Garhwal (2010).

The negative and significant association between the frequency of library use of girls SDAU students and their internet usage behaviour might be due to the reason that the girls SDAU students who visit library more for reading the books, magazines, newspapers or content of the syllabus might get less time for internet access resulting in less internet utilization. The findings are in line with the findings of Patel (2007).

### **Conclusion :**

There was a significant association between the internet utilization level of the boys SDAU students with their age, marital status, educational qualification, academic achievements, education of father, native place, medium of instruction, place of living at the time of education, wish to migrate abroad and wish to get higher academic degree, whereas in girls SDAU students the internet utilization level was significantly associated with their age, marital status, educational qualification, place of living at the time of education and frequency of library

use.

The personal and family characteristics of both the boys and girls SDAU students like education of mother, type of family, size of family, exposure to extra-curricular activities, expertise in navigating web, family income and wish to serve in different areas were found non-significantly associated with the internet utilization level.

---

Authors' affiliations :

**A.S. SHEIKH**, Department of Veterinary Extension Education, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, S.D. Agricultural University, S.K. NAGAR (GUJARAT) INDIA

---

## REFERENCES

---

**Chauhan, N.B.** (2004). Use of internet by research scholars of Agriculture College, Anand. Times of India, Anand Plus: 2.

**Garhwal, S.** (2010). Internet utilization behaviour of agricultural students of Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner” M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, SKN College of Agriculture Jobner, SKRAU Bikaner, RAJASTHAN (INDIA).

**Moussa, A.K.** (2012). Attitude and usage behaviour of agricultural research scholars towards internet in SKN College

of Agriculture, Jobner, Jaipur (Rajasthan). M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis. SKN College of Agriculture Jobner, S.K. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, RAJASTHAN (INDIA).

**Patel, M.C.** (2004). A study on internet exposure of postgraduate students of agriculture college, Anand of Gujarat agricultural university. Special problem (An assignment) for the degree of M.Sc. in Agricultural Communication, YCMOU, Nasik, and Maharashtra (India).

**Patel, M.C.** and Chauhan, N.B. (2005). Pattern of internet use of the agricultural students. *Agric. Extn. Rev.*, **17** (1) : 7.

**Patel, M.C.** (2006). A study on opinion of the teachers of Agriculture College about the use of multimedia for agricultural education, special problem (An assignment) for Ph.D. , YCMOU, Nasik, Maharashtra (India).

**Patel, M.C.** (2007). A study on factors affecting the level of Internet exposure of research scholars of Anand Agricultural University. Ph.D. Thesis, The School of Agricultural Sciences, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, Maharashtra, India

**Shah, U.B.** (2006). A study on level of internet exposure of teachers of Anand Agricultural University, Anand. Ph.D. Thesis, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, GUJARAT (INDIA).

  
 ★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★