

# The Influence of Internet Usage on the Academic Performance of Secondary Students

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**Abstract-** Today, internet has become one of the most important means for communication, information search, research and learning. It has become an indispensable part of student's life and they are the avid users of the internet and its technology. With the increasing internet dependency it is crucial to investigate its influence on the academic performance of the students. The purpose of this study is to investigate the influence of internet usage on the academic performance of secondary students. A total of 60 students studying in class IX were selected with the help of simple random sampling technique as sample from two different schools of Guwahati.

**Keywords :** internet, secondary students, academic performance

## I. INTRODUCTION

Internet today is not only perceived as a means of communication but is also considered as one of the most powerful tool. The role of internet in the field of education is very relevant. The internet provides a kind of exposure to the learners to access the vast array of knowledge available in the World Wide Web. Though the use of internet for academic purpose is vouched for but the students are more inclined to use it for entertainment purpose ( Rangaswamy 2012). With the internet becoming a stable means of student's interaction and information dissemination, all those concerned with higher education are attempting to grasp how internet usage can influence the academic performance of the students.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Matthew and Schrum (2003)** in the report of their own study on high speed internet use and academic gratification among college students in America indicated that correlation exist between students perception of time using the internet for academic purposes. Similarly, the correlation between the student's perception that their effort leads to good grades and their perception of internet helps with academic work is weak but statistically significant.

**Sushma Bagavadi Ellore1 , Suman Niranjana and Ulysses J. Brown (2014)** in their study titled "The Influence of Internet Usage on Academic Performance and Face-to-Face Communication" concluded that controlled use of the Internet can have positive influence on student's academic performance. Most students seem to have control over the use of Internet, which possibly was one of the reasons for non significant relationship between Internet usage and academic performance.

**Anwar ( 2014)** in his study titled "internet addiction among secondary school children and its relation with their academic achievement" revealed that internet usage among male students is higher as compared to the female students. The study also showed average to high use of internet had positive impact on the academic achievement of students, while no use and extremely high use of internet had negative impact on academic achievement.

**Deepika (2014)** in her study on internet addiction causing academic achievement on 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India with respect to gender found that internet addiction possess more in boys than in girls, this may be because boys are more techno friendly and like to explore things more than girls.

**Turel and Toraman (2015)** in their study found that academic performance of students successfully increases when their internet addiction decreases. This implies that internet addiction has an effect on the academic performance of the students.

### III. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In the field of education, a number of researches have been carried out to find the impact of internet usage on students' academic performance. A vast majority of people agreed that internet helps in the grades of academic performance of the students (Jones, 2002). Suhail and Bargees (2006) revealed that the internet usage impacts education in a positive way by increasing communication with classmates and professors, increasing access to libraries and educational databases, and improving study hours and study habits. Studies done by (Carvin, 2006; Ogedebe, 2012) noted that the use of the internet strengthens the academic performance of the students. Though there are many benefits linked with internet use, there has been a growing concern regarding the risk associated with internet overuse. There are many ongoing researches that showed that students become addicted to the internet (Young & Rodgers, 1998; Nalwa & Anand, 2003; Thomas & Martin, 2010) and caused academic failure (Young, 1998; Subrahmanyam et al., 2001). Internet has a significant decrement onto students' performance (Robert, 2001) and (Jeong, 2005; Lipsmoin, 2007). These researches show the relationship between internet use and academic performance. After extensive literature review, the investigator found that a very few studies have been conducted to find the influence of internet usage on academic performance of secondary students of Kamrup district, therefore, the investigator felt the necessity to carry out a study in respect to this issue. Hence, the present study tries to examine the influence of internet usage on academic performance of secondary students.

### IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are-

- To find out the different levels of internet usage among secondary students.
- To find out the academic performance of the secondary students.
- To find out the relationship between internet usage and academic performance of the secondary students.

### *DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY*

- The study has been confined to two private schools of Guwahati only.
- The study has been delimited only to the students studying in class IX.
- Regarding academic performance, student's annual examination marks of class VIII has been considered.
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### V. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

#### *RESEARCH DESIGN*

In this study the researcher has adopted descriptive survey method for collecting data of the existing phenomenon.

#### *SAMPLE OF THE STUDY*

In the present study, 60 students studying in class IX were selected with the help of simple random sampling technique as sample from two private schools of Guwahati only.

#### *TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION*

The tools used in the study were

- The Internet Usage scale (2017) by Saini.S and Kour.P to study the level of internet usage among the students
- For finding out the academic performance of the students, percentage of marks obtained in their previous year final examination i.e. class VIII has been taken into consideration.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Objective 1- To find out the different levels of internet usage among secondary students.

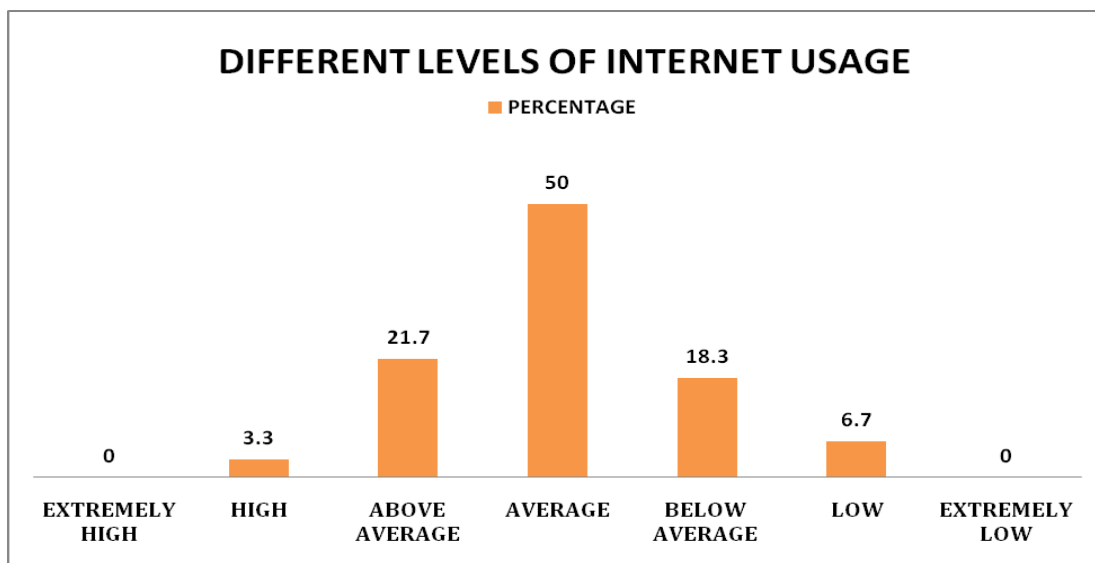
Table 1: Different levels of internet usage

LEVELS OF INTERNET USAGE	NO.OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
EXTREMELY HIGH	0	0
HIGH	2	3.3
ABOVE AVERAGE	13	21.7
AVERAGE	30	50
BELOW AVERAGE	11	18.3
LOW	4	6.7
EXTREMELY LOW	0	0
TOTAL	60	100

Table 1 indicates that 0% of students fall in the range of extremely high level of internet usage. 2% of the students fall in the range of high level of internet usage. 13% of the students fall in the range of above average level of internet usage. 30% of the students fall in the range of average level of internet usage. 11% of the students fall in the range of below average level of internet usage. 4 % of the students fall in the range of low level of internet usage and 0% of the students fall in the range of extremely low level of internet usage.

The different levels of internet usage by the secondary students has been graphically represented below-

FIG 1 : GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTERNET USAGE



Objective 2 : To find out the academic performance of the secondary students.

To find out the academic performance of secondary students, the percentage of marks obtained by them in their previous year annual examination i.e. class VIII has been treated as index of their academic performance. The criteria for determining the level of academic performance of students have been categorized as 70 and above as high, 60-69 as above average, 50-59 as average, 40-49 as below average, 40 and below as low. After analysis of data the following results were found-

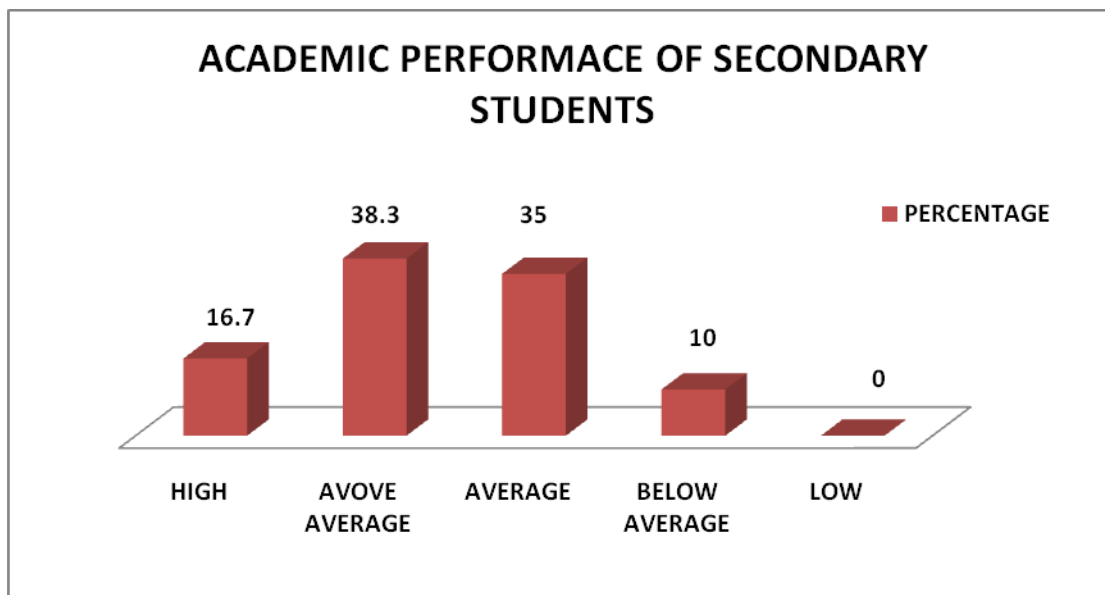
Table 2: Academic performance of the secondary students

LEVELS	NO.OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
HIGH	10	16.7
AVOVE AVERAGE	23	38.3
AVERAGE	21	35
BELOW AVERAGE	6	10
LOW	0	0
TOTAL	60	100

The above table represents the academic performance of the secondary students. The table shows that the academic performance of 16.7% students are high, 38.3% are above average, 35% are average, 10% are below average respectively. No students are found to have low level of academic performance.

The academic performance of the secondary students has been represented graphically below-

Fig 2 : Graphical representation of academic performance of the secondary students



Objective 3 : To find out the relationship between internet usage and academic performance of the secondary students.

Table 3 : Correlation between internet usage and academic achievement of secondary students

Variables	N	Pearson's Correlation (r value)
Internet usage	60	-0.14
Academic achievement		

The above table shows that the calculated r value is -0.14 is negatively correlated. It means the academic achievement of secondary students is negatively correlated with their internet usage. Increase in internet usage decreases the academic achievement of the students.

#### MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of above analysis and interpretation of data, the following, and the major findings of the study are as follows-

- Majority of the students fall in the range of average level of internet usage. 30% of the students fall in the range of average level of internet usage.
- Extremely high and extremely low level of internet usage has not been found.
- The academic performance of the students mostly falls between above average and average range. 38.3% are above average and 35% are average in their academic performance. Students having low academic performance has not been found.
- There exists negative correlation between internet usage and academic performance of the secondary students which means increase in internet usage decreases the academic achievement of the students.
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#### VII. CONCLUSION

Though the study reveals that there exist a negative correlation between internet usage and academic performance of the secondary students which means increase in internet usage decreases the academic achievement of the students, yet the role of internet in communication, information exchange and the creation of knowledge cannot be denied. Factor like the amount of time spent on the internet has impact on the student's academic performance. At times the students also uses internet to be active on social media which acts as a great source of distraction. Therefore teacher and parental supervision is required for effective use of the internet which in turn may improve the academic performance of the students.

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