

Research Paper

A STUDY OF INTERNET KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN MADURAI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

*The study was intended to find out the Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, India. Random Sampling Technique was used to compose a sample of School Teachers Mean, Standard Deviation and t value were calculated for the analysis of data. The result revealed that the level of Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers is low. The male and female students, rural and urban area students, arts and science subject teachers and Internet users and non users exhibited significant difference in respect of their Internet Knowledge. **Key Words:** Internet, Higher Secondary School Teachers.*

INTRODUCTION

The Internet is a global system of interconnected [computer networks](#) that use the standard [Internet Protocol Suite](#) (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and Government networks, of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast range of [information](#) resources and services, such as the inter-linked [hypertext](#) documents of the [World Wide Web](#) (WWW) and the infrastructure to support [electronic mail](#). Most traditional communications media including [telephone](#), music, film, and television are reshaped or redefined by the Internet, giving birth to new services such as [Voice Over Internet Protocol](#) (VOIP) and [IPTV](#). Newspaper, book and other print publishing are adapting to [Web site](#) technology or are reshaped into [blogging](#) and [web feeds](#). The Internet has enabled or accelerated new forms of human interactions through [instant messaging](#), [Internet forums](#), and [social networking](#). [Online shopping](#) has boomed both for major retail outlets and small [artisans](#) and traders. [Business-to-business](#) and [financial services](#) on the Internet affect [supply chains](#) across entire industries. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet>).

Review of related literature

Baheerathan, (2003) studied the internet awareness among the teachers of Mathematics at high school level in Tanjavur District. He reported that the Internet awareness among the teachers of Mathematics at High School level is not sufficient. Also he found that the gender and the locale and the management of the schools where they are working caused no significant difference in respect of their Internet awareness. Senthil Kumar, (2004) studied the Internet knowledge of Higher Secondary chemistry students in Chidambaram town. He reported that the Internet knowledge of higher secondary chemistry students is low.

Statement of the Problem

The problem entitled as "A study on Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers in Madurai District".

Significance of the study

The Internet nowadays seems to be an inevitable part of the students and teachers role. Future pedagogy depends mainly on three W's viz., Wire or Wireless

(Internet), Windows and Web. So every teacher must know about the Internet usage. So, the investigator wanted to know about the Internet knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers.

Scope and Limitations of the study

The following are the few suggestions for the future research. Similar study may be undertaken for all the Higher Secondary students. Similar study may be conducted at College and University levels. Survey and Project work may also be undertaken for college lecturers and research scholars.

Due to lack of time and resources available to the investigator, the study has been constrained with the following limitations.

1. The study was conducted only at Higher Secondary School teachers.

2. Only one District was selected for data collection.

Method of the study

The present study aims at finding out the Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers. Normative survey method has been used in the study.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the level of Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers.

2. To study the significance of the difference if any between the male and female teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

3. To study the significance of the difference if any between rural and urban area teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

4. To study the significance of the difference if any between arts and science subject teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

5. To study the significance of the difference if any between Internet users and non users in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

Hypotheses of the study

The following null hypotheses were formulated for the purpose of testing.

1. The level of Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers is high.

2. There is no significant difference between male and female teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

3. There is no significant difference between rural and urban area teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

4. There is no significant difference between arts and science subject teachers in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

5. There is no significant difference between Internet users and non users in respect of their Internet Knowledge.

Tools used

Internet Knowledge Questionnaire was constructed and validated by the investigator. The Internet Knowledge test used in this investigation contains 40 multiple choice items and needs one hour for teachers to answer. The maximum mark for a question is 1 and the minimum mark is 0. So the respondents can score at the maximum of 40. The Knowledge of Natural Hazards test has construct validity. Its intrinsic validity was found to be 0.94. The reliability of the test by split-half technique was found to be 0.89.

Sample of the study

Random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample and as many as 150 teachers working in Higher Secondary Schools situated in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, India. There are 4 Government Higher Secondary Schools, 4 Aided Schools and 4 Self finance Higher Secondary Schools have been chosen. All the available school teachers working in each of these selected Higher Secondary Schools were chosen as sample.

Statistical Techniques Used

1. Internet Knowledge scores of the various sub-samples were collected and their means and standard deviations were calculated given in Table-1.

2. The t-test of significance was used to test the hypotheses and the details of the calculations were given in Table-2

TABLE - 1
Internet knowledge scores of the sub-samples

Sub-samples	N	Mean	S.D.
Entire sample	150	20.94	7.17
Male teachers	91	22.74	7.05
Female teachers	59	18.15	6.46
Rural area teachers	64	16.59	4.92
Urban area teachers	86	24.17	6.88
Arts subject teachers	92	19.05	6.24
Science subject teachers	58	23.93	7.57
Internet users	53	24.86	6.98
Internet non users	97	18.79	6.34

TABLE - 2

Difference between the means of the Internet knowledge scores of the sub - samples

Sub - samples	N	Mean	S.D	't' value	Level of significance
Male teachers	91	22.74	7.05	4.02	0.01
Female teachers	59	18.15	6.46		
Rural area teachers	64	16.59	4.92	7.49	0.01
Urban area teachers	86	24.17	6.88		
Arts subject teachers	92	19.05	6.24	4.28	0.01
Science subject teachers	58	23.93	7.57		
Internet users	53	24.86	6.98	5.41	0.01
Internet non users	97	18.79	6.34		

Important Findings

The following are the important findings of the present investigation:

1. The means of Internet knowledge are found to range from 15.05 to 24.86 and the standard deviation range from 2.47 to 8.43 in respect of their entire sample and its sub-samples. The

maximum marks for the Internet knowledge test is 40. One who scores above 20 belongs to the "high" level and one who gets 20 and below belongs to the "low" level of Internet knowledge. This finding reveals that majority of the teachers belong to the low level of Internet knowledge.

2. There is significant difference between the Male and Female teachers in respect of their Internet knowledge. Moreover the Male teachers (Mean =22.74) are found to be better than their Female counter parts (Mean =18.15) in their Internet knowledge.

3. There is significant difference between the Urban and Rural school teachers in respect of their Internet knowledge. Moreover the Urban school teachers (Mean =24.17) are found to be better than their Rural counter parts (Mean =16.59) in their Internet knowledge.

4. There is significant difference between the Arts and Science subject teachers in respect of their Internet knowledge. Moreover the Science subject teachers (Mean =23.93) are found to be better than their Arts counter parts (Mean =19.05) in their Internet knowledge.

5. There is significant difference between the Internet users and non users of the higher secondary school teachers in respect of their Internet knowledge. Moreover the Internet users of the teachers (Mean =24.86) are found to be better than their Non users counter parts (Mean =18.79) in their Internet knowledge.

Conclusion

Thus the present study has shown that the level of Internet Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Teachers is low. The Male and Female teachers, Rural and Urban area teachers, Arts and Science subject teachers and Internet users and non users differ significantly in their Internet Knowledge.

Recommendations

The following recommendations based on the findings of the investigations are offered for the development of the Internet Knowledge. In order to achieve the acceptable level of Internet Knowledge, the teachers must be empowered with essential knowledge and information especially in developing countries like India. Since educational institutions are the places where the contact of the Internet Knowledge is more, it is possible to bring remarkable changes in the mindset of the teachers Internet Knowledge to be effectively taken up in the curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular mode, resources and facilities have to be built up strengthened both within and outside the school system.

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