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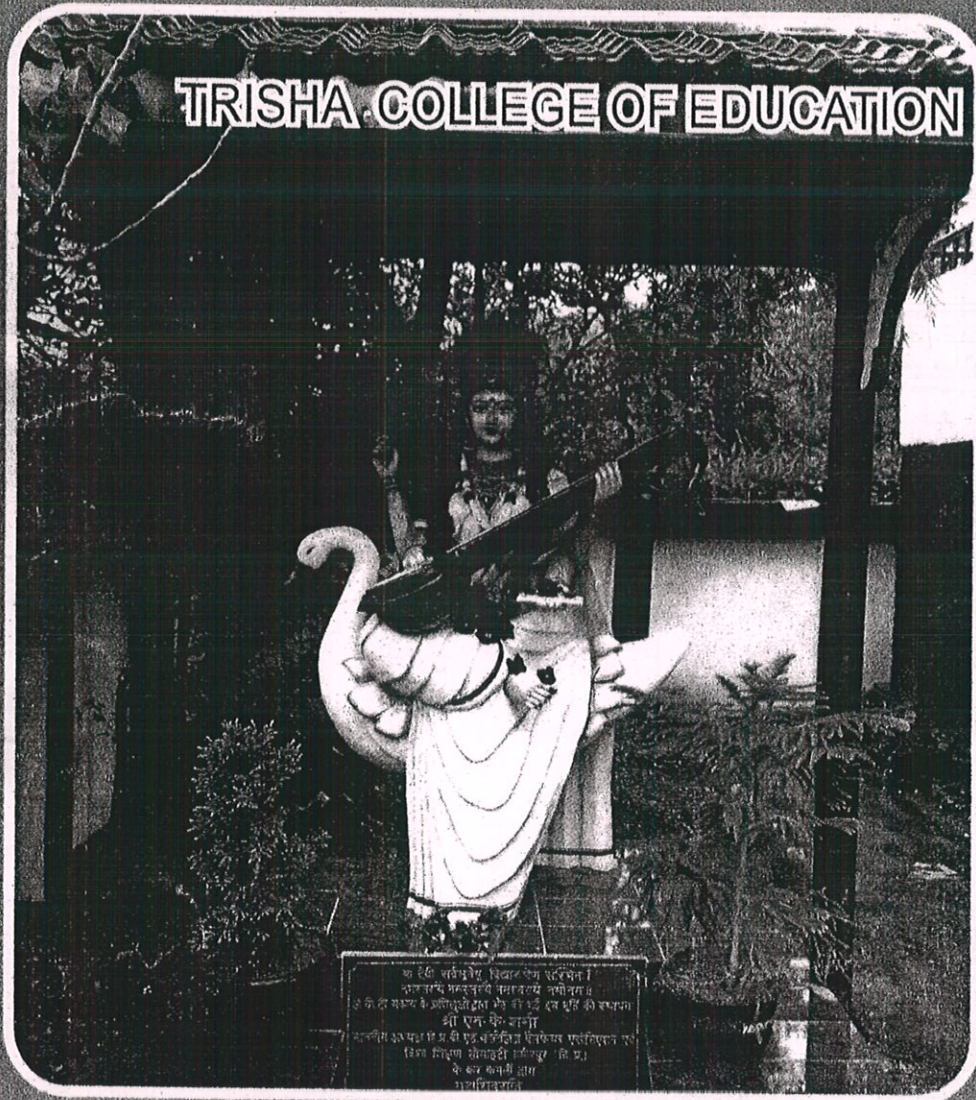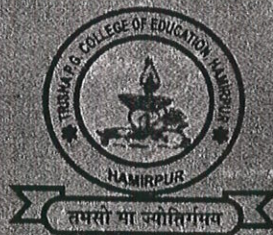
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USE OF INTERNET AND ITS IMPACT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AMONG POST -GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Abstract

The internet is a network of networks that consists of millions of private and public, academic, business and government networks of local to global scopes that are linked by cables, connections, and other technologies. The internet carries a vast array of resources and services, most notably the inter-linked documents of the World Wide Web (WWW) and the infrastructure to support. It is a powerful means of communication, dissemination and retrieval of information. It is one of the powerful / effective tools or technologies ever produced for getting information on fingertips from any part of the world been sitting at one's own location. Internet has been described as a system for allowing computers to communicate with each other. It also serves as a distribution system for e-books which made learners life very convenient by facilitating a large source of reference materials and data, required for all types of educational activities. Now the facility of internet has been increasingly used for educational course delivery and an unavoidable necessity for every institution of higher learning and research. But it's easy access and availability is one of the problems students face which aspect the investigator focused here in this research paper i.e. its access and availability of in North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya where this facilities are lacking due to geographical barriers and to what extent students are using internet for their academic pursuits. The study found out that, higher the internet uses have higher the academic achievement besides all the difficulties.

Key Words: Internet use, Academic achievement, Post Graduate students, Motivation for internet use.

Background

Education is the driving force of economic and social development in any of countries. Considering this, it is necessary to find ways to make education of quality, accessible and affordable to all by using the latest technology available which demand Innovative use of Information and Communication Technology can potentially solve the problem. (Kaul, 2006).

of the measures of the quality of an education system is the nature and extent information that it makes available to students. Apart from it, the availabilities institution libraries and textbook selections all these enhance and assist in maintaining a high standard in education. These resources along with the teacher's knowledge have traditionally been the dominant sources of information for all India. However, now day's internet is dominating in the field of education

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which is very paradigm shift. Students can have access to e-library that is hundred of times as extensive as the institutional library. In addition, they gain access computer-assisted learning. Students can easily access up-to-date information th may not be in the textbooks and that is not familiar to the teachers. But, in a count like ours, getting access to the internet is still a stumbling block towards th paradigm shift.

As a pre-requisite to expansion of on-line education services, it is essenti that various parts of the country be connected with high speed Internet. The Nation Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, Educational Technology (ET) ar Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS), the National Curriculu Framework (NCF, 2005), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Central Adviso Board of Education (CABE), in its report on Universal Secondary Education, in 20 stressed the need to employ educational technology to improve the quality education. (National Policy on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) School Education, Government of India, 2011).

But it is a worry that, the lack of digital connectivity is impeding developme in one of India's richest regions culturally and ecologically i.e. the North-East. Th region of the country is landlocked and poorly connected with the outside world ar where ICT can play a crucial role in overcoming its geographical exclusion and he develop in every respect. The government has begun an ambitious programme wire up the entire North-East and remote border regions with telecom, WiMa (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) and broadband connectivity, ar unleash an IT revolution in the region with an aim that, the North-East can wor wonders and change the life of the people into a productive and serviceable. In th same direction many educational institutions are also playing the role by providin the internet facility to its people, out of which North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU Tura Campus, Tura, Meghalaya is one.

Internet is a very effective and popular tool used by the students for education a well as variety of other purposes including entertainment. Internet provides a interactive environment for sharing as well as seeing of information on a wide diverge and variety of subjects. Internet is very versatile medium to meet th information needs of student as well as any other section of the society. Consequently, it has become very popular among the student community; and it i also used by them to supplement their studies. It is open, non-proprietary, compute

unication infrastructure of the world. The use of the Internet in the educational
ronment has enabled easy access to many resources and information which
ng has, significantly increased. It provides teachers and students a guide for
s-on experiments. But its easy access and availability create problems for students
aspect the investigator wants to focus here in the study that to see to what extent
ts are using internet for their   academic pursuits. Although the efficiency of this
ology brings the desired result in student achievement and which does not exactly
out and is difficult to determine. Hence, much research has been conducted over
to understand the reasons for this situation. Here in this study the collected data
the inherent facts on the same.

As per the review of the literature, it has been found out that, so many
s have been done on similar topic but no work has been done on the use of
its facilities and usefulness in NEHU, Tura in particular. In North East due to
ical barriers these facilities are lacking. Even wherever it is available
ity is very slow which impedes the students' progress and they are not able to
up with the national pace as far as its effect on academic achievement is
ed. In consideration of the above facts and the gaps in research findings in this
he investigator felt the need to investigate on the use of internet among the
ate students and how much influence it has on their academic achievement
ce has taken up this study. Here, in this study Academic Achievement refers to
ks obtained by the post-graduate students in their last semester final
ion from their respective disciplines. The study delimited to the students of the
artments of NEHU, Tura Campus only and the marks obtained in the final
examination of the sampled students is considered as academic achievement.

ectives of the study are:

a) To study the pattern of internet use by the post-graduate students of NEHU,
Tura Campus, Tura.
b) To find out the motivational factors behind the use of internet.
c) To discuss the extent of use of internet for scholastic and academic purposes.
d) To study the obstacles faced and its impact on the students in using internet.
e) To find out the impact of the internet use on academic achievement of post
graduate students of NEHU, Tura.

Methodology

Keeping in view the nature and objectives of the present research, Descriptive Survey Research Method (Koul, L 1984) was used to find out the impact of Internet on academic achievement of Post graduate students of NEHU, Tura Campus, Tura Meghalaya.

As per the delimitation of the study, sample was drawn from all the five post graduate (PG) departments of NEHU, Tura Campus, Tura, Meghalaya i.e. a) MBA b) RDAP, c) Education, d) English and e) Garo literature. The total population from all the departments was 300 in total. In order to draw the sample at second phase only 33% of total population (large sample) of each department had been selected as per the Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling technique to take as final sample of the study which was 20 in each department and in total 100.

Keeping in view the nature of the present problem, a self developed questionnaire was developed for the sample of the study which consists the components to cover all the objectives of the study i.e. Pattern of internet use by the students, Motivational factors behind internet use, The use of internet in scholastic and academic purposes, The obstacles faced and its impact on academic achievement. Component wise questionnaire was developed and the question items were discussed with the experts and were finalized. The data was collected by adopting proper testing conditions in the class and the same was analysed with the help of two statistical techniques that is percentage (%) and 't' test.

## Main Findings and Discussion

a)   The data collected from 100 post graduate students of the entire five Post Graduate departments (20 each) of NEHU Tura Campus, Tura. They viewed that in an average 64% students from all the departments have their personal computer, out of which 88% have Laptop and remaining have desktop.

In an average only 39% Post Graduate students received some kind of training to use internet but 49% students used internet often (i.e. every day), 36% sometimes and the remaining were occasionally. Out of all the students 61% students used internet at their homes, 52% by mobile phones, 5% at cyber cafes and remaining (2%) from friends' or relatives' place but the speed of internet connectivity is medium responded by majority sampled students which is due to hilly terrain geographical status of North -Eastern part of the country.
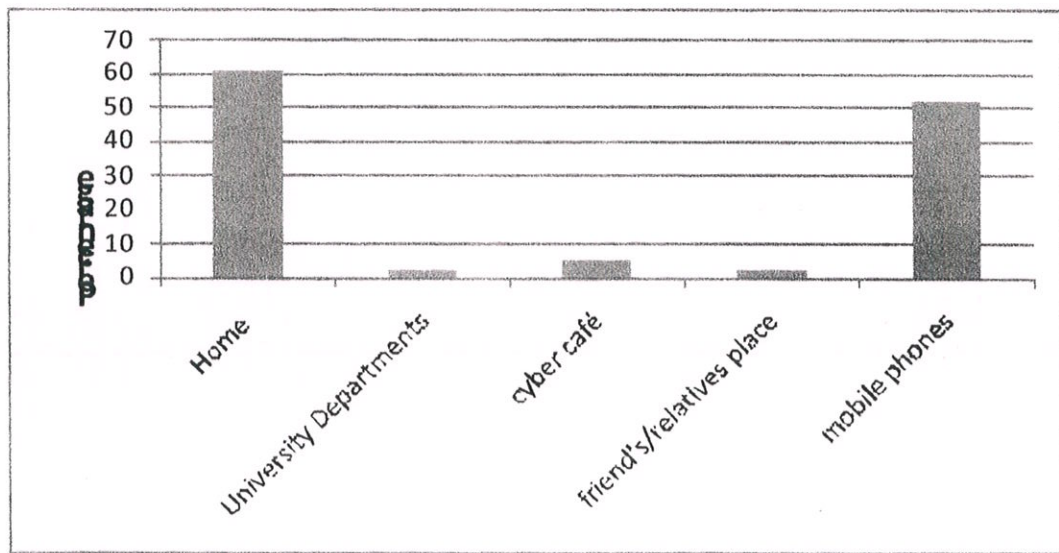
Fig.1.1: Place of Access of Internet

The data reflected that 95% students visit Google site frequently followed by 72% face book, 59% Wikipedia, 33% YouTube and 23% yahoo and only a few visits Kespersky site by using different browsers such as 62% used Internet explorer, 45% Opera, 44% Mozilla Firefox, 4% Google chrome and 1% only used Netscape navigator. Maximum sampled students used internet for preparation of their assignments, updating knowledge on their own subject content, reading news, research work and preparation of their semester examination and they used internet up to 1 to 2 hours in a day.
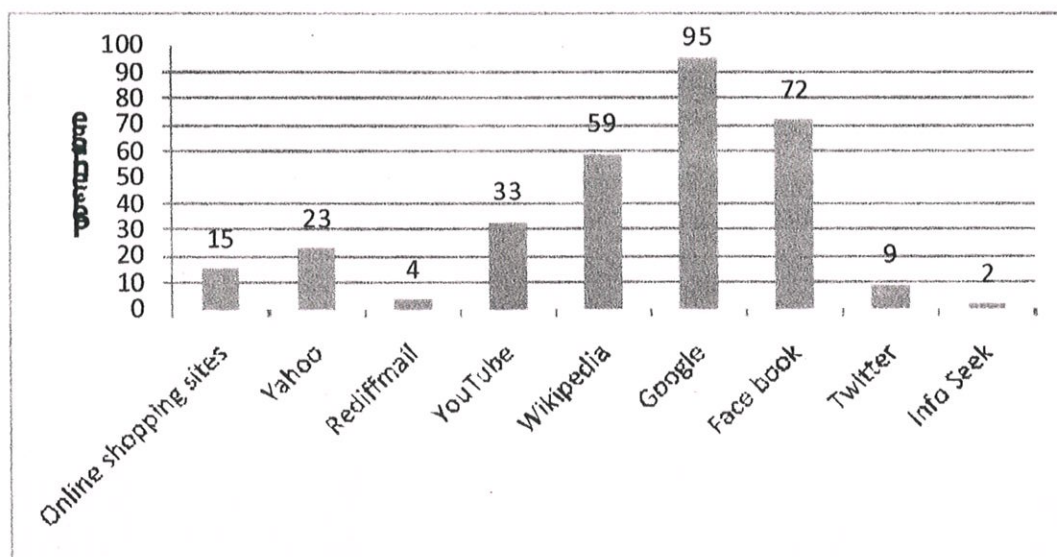
Fig. 1.2: Frequently visited sites

These findings of the study similar with the findings of many other studies such as : Jones and Madden (2002), Kumar and Kaur (2004), Mishra , Yadava and Bisht (2005), Biradar and others (2006), Ronke, Ajala and Lyro (2013), Ruzgar (2005), Poulter (2007) and Khan, Ahmad & Bhatti (2011) found that, different factors influence positively to use internet regularly and many students use internet at the University Library, cyber cafes as well as their departments and homes.

Therefore the **Objective-1** i.e. to study the pattern of internet use by the post graduate students of NEHU, Tura campus has been reflecting positively with the above findings.

b)   That 78% of the sampled postgraduate students motivated to use of internet i.e. for getting information easily, followed by news (54%), emails (43%), Use of e-books (40%), for entertainment, socializing and other factors. Further, it is found that 78% students feel availability of knowledge at any time, 69% for improvement of their knowledge, 66% for updating information, 54% for using their time in proper way, followed by latest research literature. It is interesting to note that maximum students (95%) from MBA department believed that social interaction is the main gratification that they got from internet. 75% of the sampled students admitted that teachers do encourage them to use internet for various academic purposes. It has been seen that students from almost all the departments had the same opinion with regard to use of internet than the other sources to get information. They opined that internet is such a source that enables them to get new, detailed and recent information in a span of time. It gave instant news, helps to get large range of study materials, and brings everyone in one window and fast means of communication. Students from RDAP department also added that in contrast to library where many books have to be searched, internet enables us to get all such materials easily. In department wise analysis, maximum students from MBA department (95%) were found to be self-taught, followed by 70% from English department and 65% from Garo literature department. As far as Education department was concerned responses were mixed.

These above findings of the study match with the studies of Ruzgar (2005), Wanajak (2011)and Ronke, Ajala and Lyro (2013) found that internet helps to use leisure, relaxation and entertainment and information, receiving current news around the world, opportunity to know of and access information from foreign universities motivated them to use Internet.

Therefore, the **Objective – 2 i.e**. To study the Motivational factors for using internet is being reflected with the above findings that different factors helps to motivate the P.G. students of NEHU, Tura for using internet.

c)   That, the vast majority of the students (92%) feel that availability of internet has enhanced their academic achievement. The data indicates that 91% of the sampled students agreed that they got information related to their course while they used to browse internet, helps to complete their tasks quickly and helped them to a great extent in improving the quality of their work or assignments by getting latest a more information. 82% of the total respondents use internet for collecting study materials, 70% for assignments, and 40% for accessing online libraries for consulting journals while only 24% for accessing other universities to get some relevant information and literature for project works. (90%) of students from Education and RDAP departments, 85% students from MBA department, 60% from English and only (20%) from Garo literature department expressed that, internet services has helped them in their academic pursuits by accessing knowledge and information. Also majority of students from all departments felt that it led to better preparation and getting up to date information and to locate answers to questions in projects assignment. Overall analysis depicted that 77% of the total students felt it helped them to get up to date information. But this is a great fact that, majority of the sampled students' (55%) said that, using internet does not help them to cover their syllabus entirely. Department wise revealed that 80% students from English Department, 75% from Garo literature department, 60% from Education department and 50% from RDAP also expressed that internet use does not help them to cover their syllabus entirely.

These above findings of the study match with the studies of Mishra, Yadava and Bisht (2005), Balakrishnan (2010) found that internet provides up-to-date information on a variety of classroom related topics unavailable from other sources and enhances the content of the textbook, library and teacher knowledge of the subject matter.

Therefore, the **Objective – 3 i.e.** To study the extent of use of Internet for scholastic and academic purposes is being reflecting with the above findings, that the discussed result shows that use of internet helped the P.G. students of NEHU, Tura in a larger extent for their scholastic purposes.

d) That, 77% of the sampled students feel that slow access in internet troubles them most, 71% expressed that frequent power failure troubles them, 62% had shooting problem when they transfer the material and also financial problem followed by 49% said it takes too long time to view or download the page and 38% expressed that, they have difficulty in finding relevant information which has been shown in figure 1.3 given below.
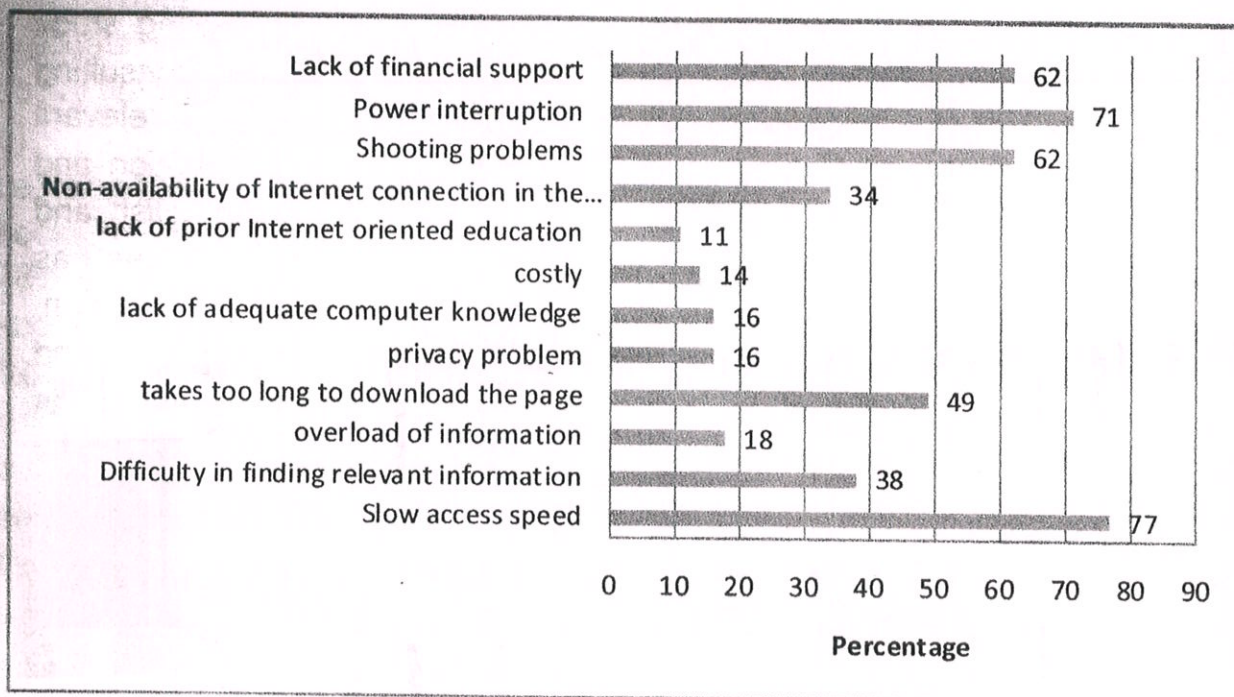
Fig.1.3: Problems faced in the use of internet

The data reveals that 40% of the sampled students expressed that they feel a little guilty for the time they spend on internet. 93% of the total respondents strongly felt that internet has really become an integral part of teaching-learning process. Some other information is that the students those who are using internet in late night, they used to suffer physically and mentally in their upcoming activities.

The above findings of the study match with the studies of Purnima and Herojit (2009), Nyokabi and Lukandu (2012) Luambano and Nawe (2004) and Ronke, Ajala and Lyro (2013) indicated that majority of the students were facing problems in using the Internet due to different causes. These findings were contrary to those by Ahmed, Shaqueel, Bhatti (2011) who revealed that other than inadequacy of computers with Internet access, overload of information on the internet, problems in

formulating a search query, neglecting other activities like homework, sports, or social activities, Having academic problems such as school absences, poor grades, performance were other negative aspects of Internet use.

Therefore, the **Objective – 4** i.e. To study the obstacles faced and its impact the post graduate students is retain that the discussed result shows that use of net has many good and bad impact on the P.G. students' academic and sonal life.

In comparison among different groups of internet users on their Academic evement scores, it was found out that, there exists significant difference in een high and low internet users at post –graduate level on their Academic evement score and from the mean scores, it indicated that , high internet user ents at post- graduate level have better academic achievement than their erparts of low internet users, those who are with them in the same platform.

1.3

't' test for high and low users of internet

Internet users	N	Mean	S. D.	S.E.M.D	"t"	Sig. Level
High	49	288.08	45.04	11.83	4.26	.01
Low	17	237.71	28.19			

There exists significant difference in between high and moderate internet s at post –graduate level on their Academic achievement score and from the scores, it indicated that , high internet user students at post- graduate level better academic achievement than their counterparts of moderate internet s. those who are with them in the same platform.

1.4

't' test for high and Moderate users of internet

Internet users	N	Mean	S. D.	S.E.M. D	"t"	Sig. Level
High	49	288.08	45.04	12.35	2.76	.01
Moderate	34	254.03	61.46			

However, there does not exist significant difference in between moderate and low internet users at post –graduate level on their Academic achievement score. But, from the mean scores, it is indicated that, moderate internet user students at post- graduate level have better academic achievement than their counterparts low internet users, those who are with them in the same platform.

Table- 1.5
't' test for Moderate and low users of internet

Internet users	N	Mean	S.D.	S.E.M.D	"t"	Sig. Level
Moderate	34	254.03	61.46	12.09	1.39	N.S.
Low	17	237.71	28.19			

Thus, the **Objective 5** which states that "To find out the impact of the internet use on academic achievement of post graduate students of NEHU, Tura", is retained with regard to higher to moderate and higher to low except moderate to low internet use groups. The analysis indicates that higher internet users of post - graduate level have high academic achievement.

In **discussion** to the above findings is supported by the studies of Land (1999), Purnima and Herojit (2009), Goyal, Purohit, Bhaga, (2011), Nyokabi and Lukandu (2012) Bashir (2011), Shannon (2011) who found that heavy internet use among students improved educational improvements and has great positive impact on academic achievement since they were in a position to access a very wide range of information through online such as e-journals and Wikipedia. Further Shannon (2011) found that majority of students believe online activities distract them from studying, lead to procrastination, and displace time that would have otherwise been spent on academics and hence does not lead to improve in their academic achievement.

Educational Implications

As per the findings of this study, it may be recommended that the university needs to pay attentions to the problems of the students in regard to availability of internet facility and their training that, how to use internet in the campus, so that the frequency of the use of internet could be enhanced for their academic purposes. It is

urgent need that the university should organize workshops, seminars and short training programme for creating awareness among the students about the need usefulness of the internet for quality education and may educate them to avoid desirable outcomes.

Also it can be recommended that arrangements be made of different e-competitions among students of NEHU Campus, Tura and may send the students to participate in different e-programmes outside the campus, invite experts from other universities to share information and skills on internet use for academic purpose. The examination system needs to be modified, where multimedia presentation, multimedia content, selection, download and upload should be part of the syllabus. this, students will be compulsorily motivated to use internet for academic purposes and the teachers should help the students directly to use internet for all of academic work. Classroom teaching needs to be modified into e-teaching system by which students will be motivated to devote more time on internet. If e-system is made compulsory for the class room teaching-learning along with the syllabus, the students' will compel to search and prepare their assignments and properly with global information by spending their time with internet.

The study also reveals that a majority of the students are depending only some of the commonest web sites such as Google Yahoo, Wikipedia, etc., for accessing the internet. Therefore, it is high time for the students to be educated and exposed also to other excellent and effective websites and search-engines so as to enable them to search for qualitative information for their work rather than just be satisfied with some of these common incumbent search-engines.

The study reveals some of the problems that the students face while working with the internet. Most of these problems such as slow access speed, lack of adequate computer knowledge, lack of previous internet oriented education and non-availability or insufficiency of internet connectivity in the departments.

Therefore, it could be suggested that these problems be tackled effectively at the earliest so as to ensure that each department is allotted with sufficient number of computers with better internet connectivity for all the students.

This study brings to light some of the negative aspects expressed by the postgraduate students of NEHU. Some of the widely mentioned ones are virus and others, pornographic sites, slow speed, web addiction; adverse effects of late night use of internet on health and activities of students. These however do not wipe out positive aspects.

In order to mitigate the negative aspect of internet use, the students should be properly introduced to it, motivated and trained so that they learn to use the web properly and to their advantage. Teachers and parents may keep close watch with their wards when they use internet. Government can also take some steps to control the sites of pornography and crimes of hacking.

The collected data revealed that, high internet user students at post-graduate level have better academic achievement than their counterparts those who are with them in the same platform and low users of internet.

Therefore, for academic grades and learning satisfaction awareness among students and comparative statement on success rate need to be projected by which the students' academic pursuit may be generated at the right direction for the future. All these things may be done by accessing wide range of information through online, such as e-journals and Wikipedia. The adoption and use of ICTs in education have a positive impact on teaching, learning, which needs to be taken care in University too.

Conclusion

The above glaringly speaks out the importance of the use of internet in educational fields. It has been a boon to the students, who are able to move ahead in their quest for higher learning. The internet offers knowledge that goes beyond the classroom teaching of the teachers. Even though it has revolutionized learning, yet it has got its own loop holes that could have an adverse effect on the learning and the development of the students. It is the duty of the teachers as well as the parents to monitor and guide the students to make effective use of this mechanism so as to enhance teaching-learning of the students.

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