

## AWARENESS ABOUT INTERNET AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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“Internet is the wave for Education

Internet is the backbone for Education

Internet is the teacher for Student”

Information Technology, as the name suggests, deals with the technology that is used to deal with the information. It concerns with following three main aspects:

1. Preservation of knowledge
2. transmission of knowledge
3. Advancement of knowledge

Internet is a part of Information Technology. It has become a useful tool of education. Internet collects the whole world in a single room. By using internet facilities like searching, e-mail, chatting, voice chat etc. we can enhance our knowledge by communication with other people in the world. By using internet, we can learn more and more in a specific topic by collecting information from various available sites. By using internet, one can search the information from the libraries of the whole world.

Now the question arises, how many students are using internet effectively. Keeping this idea in mind, a study has been conducted to see the awareness about Internet among Secondary School Students.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Education, Internet, Students, Teaching

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## RELATED STUDIES

Computer and informatics technology are developing with mind-boggling speed. None of the research studies has been on impact of WWW or INTERNET or Video conferencing or virtual teaching. Research has mainly focused on the traditional use of computers and on CAI. Joshi and Mahapatra (1995) undertook a study relating to effectiveness of computer software. They found that students taught through software package significantly did better than those taught through conventional method. Mahajan (1994) studies the effectiveness of computer instruction for teaching singular and plural at grade 2, and found CAI to be more effective than the traditional method.

Shah and Agarwal (1994) conducted a research study to evaluate teachers, attitude towards computer education as well as Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI). They found attitude positive in all the groups, though female teachers showed more positive attitude towards CAI. Biswal (1995) studied for his Ph.D work the development of computer-based time-space-personnel management system (TSPMS). He found that the manual system was quite poor in comparison to computer generated TSPMS. It helped to create different formats in generating co-curricular activities timetable. It helped in even distribution of working load on teachers.

Agarwal (1995) for his Ph.D work undertook a comparative study of conceptual understanding by programmed learning and CAI and that both were very effective; however PI was found better than CAI for students with lesser IQ. CAI was found to be better than PI for students of higher IQ and for students of higher socio-economic strata. Rangaraj (1997) for Ph.D. studied the effectiveness of computer-assisted instruction in teaching physics. He found that CAI as support system (CAISS) was much better than CAI as individualized instruction. Retention also was higher when taught through CAISS.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the light of the above facts, the investigators have been inspired to conduct a study on the problem that can be stated as under:

**“Awareness about Internet among Secondary School Students”**

## OBJECTIVES

The study has been planned, designed and conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To study the awareness about Internet among Secondary School Students
2. To compare the awareness about Internet between male and female students
3. To compare the awareness about Internet between Public School and Aided School students

## HYPOTHESES

The study was based on the following hypotheses:

1. Secondary School Students are aware about internet.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female students as far as awareness about Internet is concerned.
3. There is no significant difference between Public School and Aided School students as far as awareness about Internet is concerned.

## SAMPLE TAKEN

Since it is not feasible to take the entire population in the grip of survey type of research, a selected section of the population technically known as 'Sample' is picked up for the purpose. Out of the numerous techniques of sampling in vogue, random sampling was considered to be the most convenient and feasible process for the selection of the sample for the study in hand. A sample of 120 students of secondary class from Public schools and Govt. Aided schools was selected for the present study. This was further classified as under:

Public School Boys	30
Public School Girls	30
Aided School Boys	30
Aided School Girls	30

## TOOLS EMPLOYED

For every type of research we require certain instruments to gather factual material, or to explore new fields. The instruments thus employed as means are called tools. For the present study, questionnaire was considered appropriate and employed for the collection of necessary data.

## FINDINGS

Table I shows that all the public school students have primary knowledge about Internet whereas most of the aided school students also have primary knowledge about Internet. In order to assess the frequency of Internet use, the time gap has been classified into five categories. It shows that the frequency of Internet use by the public school students is higher than their aided school counterparts. Table shows that even, a few aided school students never use Internet.

**Table I**

Primary knowledge about Internet				
	Public School		Aided School	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	100%	100%	86.7%	73.3%
Frequency of Internet use				
	Public School		Aided School	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Daily	43.3%	30%	6.67%	10%
Twice a week	23.3%	13.3%	10%	10%
Once a week	23.3%	3.33%	16.7%	20%
Occasionally	10%	53.3%	53.3%	33.3%
Never	-	-	13.3%	26.7%

Table II shows the data of students regarding awareness about Internet services. It is seen that majority of students use www, e-mail, search engine, chatting, yahoo and google. They are less aware about e-journals, e-books and e-purchase.

**Table II**

Awareness about Internet Services				
	Public School		Aided School	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
www	100%	100%	86.7%	73.3%
e-mail	100%	100%	86.7%	66.7%
Search Engine	100%	100%	86.7%	66.7%
FAQ (Frequently asked Questions)	40%	53.3%	16.7%	13.3%
Chatting	100%	100%	6.67%	10%
Voice Mail	36.7%	26.7%	-	-
Use of Yahoo	100%	100%	16.7%	13.3%
Use of Google	100%	100%	16.7%	13.3%
Use of Rediff	73.3%	56.7%	13.3%	3.33%
e-journals	-	3.33%	-	-
e-books	3.33%	13.3%	-	-
e-purchase	56.7%	70%	-	-

While comparing boys and girls, it is seen that use of Internet services by the boys is at higher side than the girls in almost all the areas except e-purchase. When the public school

students are compared with aided school students, it is clearly seen that public school students are more aware about Internet and its services than aided school students.

So, it can be concluded that Secondary School Students are aware about Internet. There is no significant difference between male and female students as far as awareness about Internet is concerned. However, the difference between Public School and Aided School students is seen as far as awareness about Internet is concerned.

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