

Students' Attitudes towards Internet: A study on Private Universities of Bangladesh

Md. Abdullah Al Mahmud (Corresponding Author)

Lecturer, Department of Business Administration

Manarat International University

Plot # CEN 16, Road # 106, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

Mobile No.: +88 01718150263, Email: emrul151@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study investigated the attitude of private university students in Bangladesh towards internet. Results from the study indicated that students had positive attitudes toward using the Internet as a learning tool, adequate basic knowledge of the Internet, viewed Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge, and Internet has a potential to be an effective training tool. The results also revealed that the students exhibited positive attitudes toward the Internet irrespective of gender, again in contradiction to most other findings. Possible reasons and the implications of these findings will be elaborated and discussed.

Keywords: Students' Attitudes, Internet use, Private University

1.0 Introduction:

Bangladesh is a growing ICT country in the world. The rate of internet use is increasing day by day. The growing technological enhancement increases the uses of internet in every arena. Education is not out of that faction. In this day and age internet is indispensable part of education. As the usages rate of internet in education is increasing day by day, so it is quite logical to judge the attitude of students towards internet. As the number of private universities increases day by day and the capacity inadequacy of Public Universities, so Private University is the major arena where the students receive their higher education. The study have been selected some private universities to judge its students attitude towards internet.

2.0 Objectives of the Study:

At education system, technology is main facilitator that provides to contribute system under requiring needed knowledge. Technology provides us to know and follow all issues with the help of the basic item, which is Internet. Internet is a wide range of supporter by providing all contacts requirements and all types of information, searching facilities with its various digital tools.

This study aimed to answer the following questions:

- ❖ What were the students' attitudes toward using the information technologies, in particular, the Internet in their learning tasks?
- ❖ Whether students attitude towards internet vary on gender;
- ❖ Is there any impact on the attitude of students based on their parents' education level?
- ❖ Is there any variation in the attitude of students between the students who have computer and internet connection and who have not?
- ❖ This study also targeted to define the awareness of students about negatives aspects of Internet and how they respond by emerging their backgrounds consideration.

3.0 Rationale of the Study:

Through the Internet, students can reach real experiences learning. The idea that is learning is constructive process widely accepted; learners do not passively receive information but instead actively construct knowledge. As the usages rate of internet in education is increasing day by day, so it is quite logical to judge the attitude of students towards internet. The study will bring us overall scenario of private university students' attitude towards internet. From this result the study can easily analyze the behavior of students and take preventive action to enhance the involvement of internet in the education.

Through these perspectives, Internet applications provide to apply and experience the facilities of constructivist view. In addition to this, Internet helps to facilitate cooperative learning environment. Through the constructivist approach, integrating Internet to the education is so easy and effective. This can foster the high level of the skills for students in problem solving and analyzing information through the help of the Internet facilities. Based on constructivist and student centered sense of education, students should catch the vision and be active in building what is needed for change and growth on the issue of educational technology importance and applications. All integration of these perspectives should be in the repertoire of the students to be much better for learning. Students must adopt that willingness; consciousness is the first step in using the technological facilities. In order to use effectively, productively and efficiently, there should be correct and positive attitudes of the user.

4.0 Operational definition of variables:

This study was designed to examine students' attitudes towards Internet and to realize their tendencies based on gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computer at their homes, having internet connection at home and student's educational status. Independent and dependent variables in this study were used as follows:

4.1 Independent variables:

Students' Characteristics.

- 1- Gender.
- 2- Education level of their mothers.
- 3- Education level of their fathers.
- 4- Having computer in their homes.
- 5- Having internet connection in their homes.
- 6- Educational status of students.

4.2 Dependent variables

Students' attitudes were evaluated by survey.

- 1- Internet is a universal digital library.
- 2- Internet provides easy life.
- 3- Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge.
- 4- Internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies.
- 5- Internet provides endless freedom to people.
- 6- Internet is vital to enhancing exchanging cultures.
- 7- Internet has a potential to be an effective training tool.
- 8- Internet is a way to provide learning for people in order to search.
- 9- It is exciting to get information about internet.
- 10- It is enjoyable to chat at internet.
- 11- Having friends in internet is temporary.
- 12- Internet causes to be far away from real life.
- 13- Chatting in internet prevent to be socialized.
- 14- Internet can provide stable friendship by doing chatting.
- 15- Internet creates tendency to people for getting prepared knowledge.

- 16- Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge.
- 17- Internet causes destroyed societies.
- 18- Internet creates addiction.
- 19- Internet creates cultural dilemma.
- 20- Internet forces people to be alone.
- 21- There should not be any nervous while making shopping at internet.
- 22- Foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle.

4.3 Identification of the Population

The population under investigation included those students whose are the undergraduate and graduate at various private universities in Bangladesh. The Private Universities are Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, American International University-Bangladesh, ASA University Bangladesh, Asian University of Bangladesh, BRAC University, Bangladesh University of Business & Technology (BUBT), East West University, Eastern University, IBAIS University, International Islamic University Chittagong, Independent University of Bangladesh, North South University, Northern University, Bangladesh, Presidency University, South East University, Stamford University, Manarat International University, University of Development Alternative, Uttara University,

4.4 Sample

Sample selected by the method of random sampling as a 1022 (one thousand twenty two) graduate and postgraduate students taking courses during 2010-2011 in selected universities. At least 50 samples were taken from each university.

4.5 Instrument

For this research study, questionnaire was designed for analyzing students' attitudes towards Internet. Survey was designed according to outlines of "Attitudes of Students towards Internet" (Isman, Aytakin). There were 29 items at this instrument, 6 related with personal information, and 23 items related with Internet attitudes are on a series five-point Likert-scale. (5=strongly disagree and 1=strongly agree). Besides these, the study had evaluated the usage of internet by 5 point scale Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Frequently, Very Frequently.

4.6 Data Collection:

In various Private Universities of Bangladesh, one thousand twenty two undergraduate and graduate students' perceptions and attitudes were analyzed through the prepared questionnaire about internet. Students' responses to the questionnaire were statistically analyzed according to gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computer at their homes, having internet connection and student's positions.

5.0 Data Analysis:

In this study, quantitative research methods (frequencies, t-test, and ANOVA) were used in order to investigate the research problems that affect on internet learning. Questionnaire as survey was designed to get the perceptions of students towards internet and its effects on learning.

5.1 Data analysis and presentation of findings

The main purpose of this study was to investigate students perceptions and attitudes towards internet based on their gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computers at home, having Internet connection and students positions with relating statement type questions by the support of statistical analysis and evaluation that questionnaire results are the basis of these evaluations.

The light of quantitative data analysis examines demographic data and frequencies for all items in the survey.

5.2 Demographic Data

An analysis of the characteristics of the target population of the study; indicated that 65.9% of the respondents were male and 34.1% of were female. Similarly, 12.2% of the respondents' mothers' education level were primary school, 33% were secondary school, 32.7% were high school, 14.4% were graduate, and 7.7% were postgraduate. About 6.5% of the respondents' fathers' education level were primary school, 12.6% were secondary school, 31.8% were high school, 27.7% were graduate, and 21.4% were postgraduate. Similarly, 91.7% of the respondents have a computer and 8.3% of them don't have a computer at home. About 80.9% of the respondents have an Internet connection at home and 19.1% do not have Internet connection at home. About 88.2% were graduates and 11.8% were postgraduate students. The following table shows that 80.4% have computer and internet simultaneously.

Insert Table 1 here

Insert Figure 1 here

5.3 Frequencies of Individual Items

According to the single item indicating satisfaction with Internet attitudes, it appears that the students were strongly agreed on having internet attitudes. However, for 13 of the 23 specific items, more than 50% of the students indicated that they were strongly agreed and agreed. At least, 50% strongly agreed and agreed that:

- Internet is a universal library (87.2%);
- Internet provides easy life (81.8%);
- Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge (89.1%);
- Internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies (78%);
- Internet provides endless freedom to people (69.9%);
- Internet is vital to enhancing exchanging cultures (74.1%);
- Internet has a potential to be an effective training tool (69.2%);
- Internet is a way to provide learning for people in order to search (80.2%);
- It is exciting to get information about internet (83.3%);
- It is enjoyable to chat at internet (78%);
- Internet creates tendency to people for getting prepared knowledge (69.9%);
- Internet creates addiction (50%);
- Internet can provide stable friendship by doing chatting (65.7%);

And less than 50% of the students were less positive about 10 items of the 23 indicating undecided disagree and strongly disagree with:

- Having friends in internet is temporary (39.9%);

Chatting in internet prevent to be socialized (28.9%);
Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge (48%);
Internet causes destroyed societies (37.1%);
Internet creates cultural dilemma (45.4%);
Internet forces people to be alone (33.5%);
There should not be any nervous while making shopping at internet (38.2%);
Foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle (42.6%);
It is not safety to make shopping at internet (36.1%);
Internet causes to be far away from real life (49.4.7%);

According to the internet use survey that had been measured through never to very frequently, the respondents consent that they were use the various service of internet frequently and very frequently more than 50% on the following issues-

Email to friends-55.1%, Email for studies-53.7%, obtain information in general 53.6%, Obtain information for studies 61.1%, Download free software-59.9%, Download lecture notes 56.8%, Download music 66.2%, Download movies 53.4%,

Insert Figure 2 here

Insert Table 2 here

The respondents consent that they were use the various service of internet frequently and very frequently less than 50% on the following issues-

Email to family 31%, Access online news paper 41.7%, Access online discussion-40.7%, and online games 38%, Online Banking-37.5%.

5.4 T-test of Individual Items

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for gender; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of Having friends in internet is temporary(0.00), Internet includes non useful knowledge(0.003), Internet creates cultural dilemma(0.021), Internet can provide stable friendship by doing chatting(.037), which are representing meaningful difference between gender variations, on the other hand other values indicate no meaningful difference between genders based on their responds.

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for having computer in students' homes; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the value of Internet is vital to enhancing exchanging cultures (0.002), Having friends in internet is temporary(.029) and It is exciting to get information about internet (0.012) which representing meaningful difference with having computer in their homes on the other hand other values indicate no meaningful difference between have computer in students' home based on their responds.

Insert Table 3 here

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for having internet connection in students' homes; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 which are representing no meaningful difference between statements and having internet connection in their homes based on their responds.

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for the position of students which vary as being undergraduate and graduate students that indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of Foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle(.041), Internet creates addiction(0.00), Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge(.003), Internet is a

universal digital library (0.008) and Internet provides endless freedom to people(.001) which are representing meaningful difference between statements and positions of students based on their responds.

5.5 ANOVA of Individual Items

According to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results that were done for the students' mother education level, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of "Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge" (0.001), which is representing meaningful difference between statements and students' mother education based on their responds.

According to ANOVA results that were done for education levels of student's fathers as indicated above, all values are higher than standard value that is .05, which representing no meaningful difference between statements and education level of student's fathers.

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations:

All reflections about the study that is "Students attitudes towards internet" concluded that students have a positive attitude towards internet. The students are more conscious about internet. They have been using internet for studying and learning frequently and very frequently. The analysis shows that there is no variation of attitude towards internet among students based on gender. There is a consensus that internet provides huge alternatives with its advantages but also it includes different dimensions as a shortcoming. In addition to this, research results represent that high percentages concentrated on positive and consciousness about internet.

As the usage rate of internet increases day by day, so the students should eliminate the negative attitude towards internet. Besides the download rate of music and movies are comparatively higher than the download rate of lecture notes and books. In this regard the student should more emphasis on download study materials rather than downloading other things. In case of online discussion the students are unaware to participate frequently. This show the students are not very much conscious about various discussions. As a student of university, the student should more concern about universe knowledge. On line discussion is one of the important arena, where students get knowledge about various topics. For this the student should participates online discussion more frequently.

In addition to this, by the evaluation of all statistical implementations which are t-test as independent, ANOVA and frequency evaluations based on questionnaire results reflect that statements of foreign language is not obstacle in internet, internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies and internet provides easy life represent meaningful difference at t-test. But at ANOVA, all values represent no meaningful difference between statements and the independent variables as education levels of student' fathers and mothers except the values of "Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge".

As a result, having consciousness and positive reflections about Internet makes people to be further step at competitive environment. Therefore, at education cycle of students concentrate more to learn internet alternatives and functions for getting great positive benefit their future life by adapting contemporary trends.

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Appendix

Table1: Percentage of computer and internet connection at home.

Do you have any computer at home? * Do you have internet connection at home? Crosstabulation					
			Do you have internet connection at home?		Total
			Yes	No	
Do you have any computer at home?	yes	Count	822	115	937
		% of Total	80.4%	11.3%	91.7%
	No	Count	5	80	85
		% of Total	.5%	7.8%	8.3%
Total		Count	827	195	1022
		% of Total	80.9%	19.1%	100.0%

Source: Authors own creation from survey data.

Table 2: Percentage of using internet for study purpose.

Obtain information for studies * Do you have internet connection at home? Cross tabulation		
		Do you have internet connection at home?
		Total

			Yes	No	
Obtain information for studies	Never	Count	25	17	42
		% of Total	2.4%	1.7%	4.1%
	Rarely	Count	85	16	101
		% of Total	8.3%	1.6%	9.9%
	Sometime	Count	185	70	255
		% of Total	18.1%	6.9%	25.0%
	Frequently	Count	271	41	312
		% of Total	26.5%	4.0%	30.6%
	Very Frequently	Count	260	51	311
		% of Total	25.5%	5.0%	30.5%
	Total	Count	826	195	1021
		% of Total	80.9%	19.1%	100.0%

Source: Authors own creation from survey data.

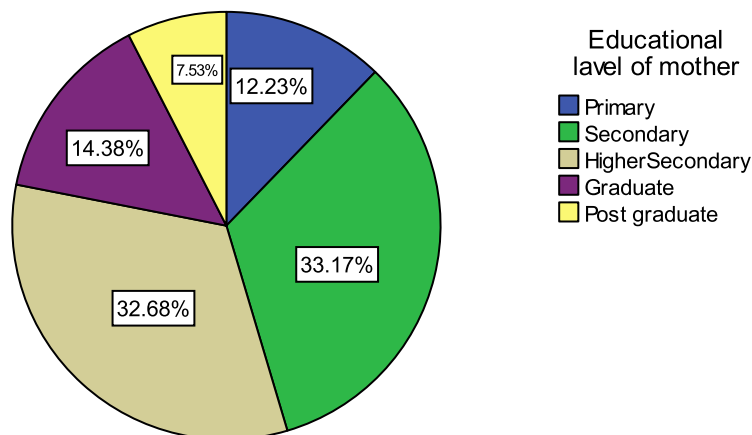
Table3: Independent Samples t-test based on having ccomputer.

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Having friends in internet temporary	2.829	.093	2.187	1017	.029	.28220	.12901	.02905	.53535
			2.046	96.152	.043	.28220	.13790	.00848	.55592

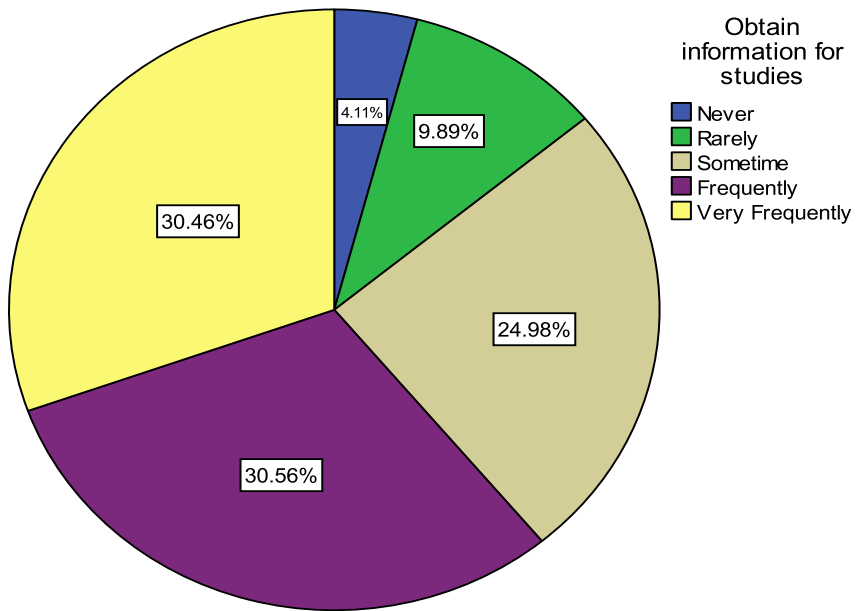
Source: Authors own creation from survey data.

Figure 1: Respondents mother's educational level.



Source: Authors own creation from survey data.

Figure 2: Respondents using level of Internet for obtaining studies information.



Source: Authors own creation from survey data.

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