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## **Impact of Internet and Social Networking Websites on College Students**

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**Abstract:** Internet and social networking websites is becoming an integral part of our life. The purpose of the study was to explore the impact of Internet and social networking websites on college students. This study was conducted with the sample of 280 college students (140 boys and 140 girls) in west Tripura. Data were analysed through statistical approaches. It was found that the impact of internet and social networking websites on boys and girls students was significant. This study also found that there is no significant difference between the purpose of using internet and social networking websites among the boys and girls students. Most of the students use internet and social networking websites for educational purpose.

**Keywords:** Internet, Social Networking Websites, West Tripura District.

### **Introduction**

Internet is very important medium for communication and learning at present time. It is a very essential part of life from advertising and shopping to electronic mails and education. Internet is a name for a largest and fast World Wide System (WWS) consisting of people, information, and computers which enable to communicate and sharing data among the indefinite number of users at a time scattered all over the world. Internet helps us in communicating with our relatives and friends sitting anywhere in the world on their computers through e-mail, chatting and audio-video communication on speakers and wave

cameras (Megan & Priscilla, 2011). The World Wide Web (WWW) is one of the fast growing valuable services offered on internet to the numberless users of world at a time. According to Abba & Bello (2014) "...mobile social networks typically affects most of the student performance that are addicted to mobile social networking sites, especially those that cannot spend even a day without visiting the sites."

Internet is a global network connecting millions of computers. More than 190 countries are linked into exchange of data, news and opinion. According to Internet live stats as of December 30, 2014 there was an estimated 3,037,608,300 Internet users worldwide. The number of Internet users represents nearly 40% of the world's population. The largest number of Internet users by country is China, followed by the United States and India. In September 2014, the total number of websites with a unique hostname online exceeded 1 billion. This is an increase from one website in 1991.

The importance of the use of internet in education is obvious today. It has been shown that the use of the internet in the sphere of organization and management of education leads to the increase of educational accessibility on a global scale and it may lead to the growth of economic efficiency of an educational institution's activity. All developed countries of the world have more or less extensive programmes of internet development in the sphere of education. The application of internet in education is understood as the use of various internet-technologies for the solution of various educational tasks, namely, teaching, learning and management of the educational process. The systematic analysis of experiences as they have been identified and defined in using internet in education provides opportunity for comparison and generalization.

Social networking sites provides web-based application platform for building social networks or social relations among individuals that shared interests or activities to interact via the internet or e-mail. This implies that, social networks are developed to provide an avenue for friends, relationship with students to interact in order to share common interests and ideas. Social Networking Sites (SNS) have created a new social dimension where individuals can develop increased levels of their social awareness by keeping in touch with old friends, making new friends, dispense new data or product, and getting information in many more aspects of everyday lives, making one to become more knowledgeable which is very beneficial especially for students.

Students use social networking site for various purposes such as writing assignments and other related social activities. According to Kuppaswamy & Shankar (2010) "A Social network grab the total attention and concentration of the students and diverts them towards non-educational and inappropriate actions such as useless chatting, time killing by random searching and not doing their jobs. Students and teenagers mostly use social networks for time killing and sake of enjoyment but it has been analysed that internet use for educational purpose and any appropriate task including online tutorials, online lectures and eruptional materials downloading is very good but use of internet for only social network is very useless perhaps and dangerous. Today various educational institutes may have their presence on

social networking sites focusing on their academia, academic, and other extra-curricular activities, achievements and rewards, campus images etc.”

In Tripura there are number of colleges at present especially in west Tripura. In these colleges there are so many students. Today we see that students use Internet and social networking sites for various purposes. Some students use for educational purpose and some for are other. For this reason the present researcher has selected west Tripura for this study. One of the important purposes of this study is to examine which purpose students use Internet and social networking websites and how many times they spend online for educational purpose. Therefore this research will explain the impact of Internet and social networking websites on college students.

Literature analysed that the social networking websites are not designed for negative impact but we have noticed that in our daily life students become addicted to social networking websites. So this part of research will explain the reality and gap between the positive and negative impact and aspect of internet and social networking websites on college students in West Tripura.

### **Significance of the study**

Internet and social networking websites are becoming an integral part of life. The Internet provides an opportunity for individuals to interact with friends and family members, to research any topic which they can imagine, and to explore the world while sitting in the comfort of their home. The internet is more than just a means of seeking information. People discovered that internet could be used to connect with other people, whether for business or commercial purpose, make new friends, reawaken old friends and long lost relatives. Students used internet and social networking sites for various purposes such as writing assignments and other related social activities.

Research on college students has indicated a number of different outcomes associated with particular type of college students experiences e.g. connect with professors, student's attitudes, motivation and activities etc. Today many students especially college students spend a lot of time on Internet and social networking sites for creating profile, doing research connecting their career or academic work, while some students just use it to chat with friends, post latest pictures and so on. Students academic performance must be managed efficiently keeping in view all the factors that can positively or negatively affect their academic performance. Using Internet and social networking websites is one of the important factors that can influence student's academic performance positively or negatively. So through this study we know that How Internet and social networking websites affects student's academic life.

The students of 21<sup>st</sup> century especially college students are facing lots of problems like- what kind of educational and vocational courses will they choose, how they can collect various educational information which is very important and essential at present time and how can improve their academic performance. By the use of Internet and social networking

sites students can solve this kind of problem because they interact or communicate with friends or other person. Therefore it is very essential to find out the impact of Internet and social networking sites on boys and girls college students in West Tripura.

### **Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To study the impact of internet and social networking websites on college students in West Tripura District.
2. To find out the purpose of using Internet among the college students.
3. To find out the purpose of using social networking websites among the college students.
4. To compare the impact of internet and social networking on boys and girls college students in West Tripura District.

### **Hypotheses of the study**

- H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant difference between the impact of internet on boys and girls college students.
- H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant difference between the impact of social networking websites on boys and girls college students.
- H<sub>03</sub>: There is no significant difference between the purpose of using Internet among the boys and girls students.
- H<sub>04</sub>: There is no significant difference between the purpose of using social networking websites among boys and girls college students.

### **Method of the study**

In this present research, Descriptive survey method was used for the collection of relevant data. Population of the study were all the college students of west Tripura District. A sample of 280 college students was selected purposively from five colleges under West Tripura District, Out of which, 140 were boys and 140 were girls. First of all, out of the eight Districts of the state of Tripura the researcher purposively selected the west Tripura District for the research work. The General Degree Colleges of West Tripura District were selected as the field of the research undertaken. Five General Degree Colleges & the students of those were purposively selected for the work. The researcher used a self - developed tool for collection of data and name of the tool is “Attitude scale towards Internet and social networking websites”.

### **Analysis and Interpretation of the data**

In the present study to analyse and interpret the impact of Internet and social networking websites on boys and girls college students the researcher had used percentile norm. Like

P<sub>25</sub>- indicates the Low impact

P<sub>50</sub>- indicates the Average impact

P<sub>75</sub>- indicates the High impact

**Objective 1:** To study the impact of internet and social networking websites on college students in West Tripura.

**Table 1: Score and percentage of boys about the impact of Internet**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	37	63	40
Percentage	26.43%	45%	28.57%

From Table1 it can be observed that 26.43% boys has got “high impact”,45% boys have “average impact” and 28.57% boys are with “low impact” by the Internet. So we can say that boys were “averagely impacted” by the Internet.

**Table 2: Score and percentage of girls about the impact of Internet**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	40	59	41
Percentage	28.57%	42.14%	29.29%

From Table 2 it can be observed that 28.57% girls has got “high impact”, 42.14% girls have “average impact” and 29.29% girls are with “low impact” by the Internet. So we can say that girls were “averagely impacted” by the Internet.

**Table 3: Score and percentage of boys about the impact of social net working websites**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	39	62	39
Percentage	27.86%	44.28%	27.86%

From Table 3 it can be observed that 27.86% boys has got “high impact” , 44.28% boys have “average impact” and 27.86% boys are with “low impact” by the social networking websites. So we can say that boys were “average impacted” by the social networking websites.

**Table 4: Score and percentage girls about the impact of social networking websites**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	37	60	43
Percentage	26.43%	42.86%	30.71%

From Table 4 it can be observed that 26.43% girls has got “high impact” ,42.86% girls have “average impact” and 30.71% girls are with “low impact” by the social networking websites. So we can say that girls were “average impacted” by the social networking websites.

**Table 5: Score and percentage of boys about the impact of Internet and social networking websites**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	36	67	37
Percentage	25.71%	47.86%	26.43%

From Table 5 it can be observed that 25.71% boys has got “high impact”, 47.86% boys have “average impact” and 26.43% boys are with “low impact” by the social networking websites. So we can say that boys were “average impacted” by the Internet and social networking websites.

**Table 6: Score and percentage of girls about the impact of Internet and social networking websites**

Description	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
No. of Students	36	65	39
Percentage	25.71%	46.43%	27.86%

From Table 6 it can be observed that 25.71% girls has got “high impact” , 46.43% girls have “average impact” and 27.86% girls are with “low impact” by the social networking websites. So we can say that girls were “average impacted” by the Internet and social networking websites.

**Table 7: Showing the percentage of boys and girls about the impact of Internet**

Category	N	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
Boys	140	26.43%	45%	28.57%
Girls	140	28.57%	42.14%	29.29%

From Table 7 it can be interpreted that maximum number of boys were “average impacted” than girls, while minimum numbers of girls were “highly impacted” than boys. So we can say that boys were “average impacted” than girls by the Internet.

**Table 8: Showing percentage of boys and girls about impact of social networking websites**

Category	N	Higher Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
Boys	140	27.86%	44.28%	27.86%
Girls	140	26.43%	42.86%	30.71%

The Table 8 can be interpreted as maximum numbers of girls were having “low impact” than the boys. But less number of girls were “highly impacted” in comparison with boys. While minimum numbers of boys were “average impacted” than girls by the social networking websites.

**Table 9: Percentage of boys and girls about the impact of Internet and social networking websites**

Category	N	High Impact	Average Impact	Low Impact
Boys	140	25.71%	47.86%	26.43%
Girls	140	25.71%	46.43%	27.86%

From Table 9 can be interpreted as maximum numbers of boys were having “average impact” than girls. But less number of girls were “low impacted” in comparison with boys by the Internet and social networking websites.

**Objective 2:** To study the purpose of using Internet among the college students.

**Table 10: Score and percentage of boys about purpose of using Internet**

Dimension	Educational Purpose	Emailing friends	Shopping Online
Score	1028	370	359
Percentage	58.51%	21.06%	20.43%

From Table 10 it can be observed that 58.51% Internet is used for “educational purpose” and 21.06% for “emailing friends” and rest 20.43% is used for “online shopping” among the boys. So it can be concluded that boys are using Internet more for educational purpose.

**Table 11: Score and percentage of girls about purpose of using Internet**

Dimension	Educational Purpose	Emailing friends	Shopping Online
Score	1102	349	315
Percentage	62.40%	19.76%	17.84%

From Table 11 it is observed that 62.40% Internet used for “educational purpose” and 19.76% used for emailing friends and 17.84% used for “online shopping” among the girls students. So we can say that girls are highly used Internet for educational purpose.

**Table 12: Score and percentage of boys and girls about purpose of using Internet**

Purpose	Educational Purpose	Emailing Friend	Shopping Online
Boys	58.51%	21.06%	20.43%
Girls	62.40%	19.76%	17.84%

From Table 12 it can be observed that maximum number of girls used Internet for “educational purpose” and less number of girls used Internet for “online shopping” and minimum number of boys used Internet for “emailing friends”.

**Objective 3:** To study the purpose of using Internet among the college students.

**Table 13: Score and percentage of boys about purpose of using social networking websites**

Purpose	Educational Purpose	Chatting	Information Sharing
Score	401	322	425
Percentage	34.93%	28.05%	37.02%

From 13 we can observed that boys were used social networking websites for “educational purpose”34.93%, for “chatting” 28.05% and for “information sharing”37.02%. So we can say that boys were likely used social networking websites for “information sharing”.

**Table 14: Score and percentage of girls about purpose of using social networking websites**

Purpose	Educational Purpose	Chatting	Information Sharing
Score	428	319	391
Percentage	37.61%	28.03%	34.36%

From 14 it can be observed that girls were used social networking websites for “educational purpose” 37.61%, for “chatting” 28.03% and for “information sharing”34.36%. So we can say that girls were highly used social networking websites for “educational purpose”.

**Table 15: Percentage of boys and girls about purpose of using social networking websites**

Purpose	Educational Purpose	Chatting	Information Sharing
Boys	34.93%	28.05%	37.02%
Girls	37.61%	28.03%	34.36%

From Table 15 we interpret that maximum number of girls used social networking websites for “educational purpose” than the boys. But less number of girls used social networking websites for “information sharing” than the boys.

**Objective 4:** To compare the impact of Internet on boys and girls students.

**Hypothesis 1:** *There is no significant difference between the impact of Internet on boys and girls students.*

**Table 16: Showing significant difference between the means of boys and girls impacted by Internet**

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	‘t’ value	Level of Significant
Boys	140	74.57	7.68	278	1.95	0.05 level not significant
Girls	140	76.56	9.18			

The result in Table 16 indicates that the obtained ‘t’ value was 1.95 which was statistically not significant at 0.05 level because they obtained value is lower than the tabulated value with 278 degree of freedom. So the null hypothesis was accepted. The result shows that there were no significant differences between the impact of Internet on boys and girls students.

**Hypothesis 2:** *There is no significant difference between the impact of social networking websites on boys and girls students.*

**Table 17: showing significant difference between the means of boys and girls impacted by social networking websites.**

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	‘t’ value	Level of Significant
Boys	140	80.36	7.41	278	0.23	0.05 level
Girls	140	81.86	7.62			Not Significant

The result in Table 17 indicates that the obtained ‘t’ value was 0.23 which was statistically not significant at 0.05 level because the obtained value is lower than the tabulated value with 278 degrees of freedom. So the null hypothesis was accepted. The result shows

that there was no significant difference between the impact of social networking websites on boys and girls students.

*Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between the purpose of using Internet among the boys and girls students.*

**Table 18: showing no significant difference between the means boys and girls about the purpose of using Internet**

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	't' value	Level of Significant
Boys	140	12.55	2.46	278	0.21	0.05 level, Not significant
Girls	140	12.61	2.31			

The result in Table 18 indicates that the obtained 't' value was 0.21 which was statistically not significant at 0.05 level because they obtained value is lower than the tabulated value with 278 degree of freedom. So the null hypothesis was accepted. The result shows that there were no significant differences between the purpose of using Internet among the boys and girls students.

Objective 5: To compare the purpose using social networking websites by the boys and girls students.

*Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference between the purpose of using social networking websites by the boys and girls students.*

**Table 19: Showing no significant difference the means of boys and girls about the purpose of using social networking websites.**

Category	N	Mean	SD	df	't' value	Level of Significant
Boys	140	8.2	2.32	278	0.27	0.05 level Not significant
Girls	140	8.13	2.05			

The result in Table 19 indicates that the obtained 't' value was 0.27 which was statistically not significant at 0.05 level because they obtained value is lower than the tabulated value with 278 degree of freedom. So the null hypothesis was accepted. The result shows that there were no significant differences between the purpose of using social networking websites among the boys and girls students.

### Conclusion

The Internet is one of the recent advancement in the world of information technology and has become a useful instrument that has fostered the process of making the world a global village. This is universal fact that the use of Internet has great impact on the students' academic achievement and social life.

India is third biggest country in terms of Internet user in the world, with a high social and mobile audience. Social networking websites like- Facebook, twitter, whatsapp etc. diverting students from their studies. Today students use Internet and social networking websites for various purposes such as educational, information sharing, emailing friends, online shopping and other social activities. But the question is that too much use of Internet and social networking websites might have adverse impact on students' academic performance especially college students. Students were exposed to Internet and social networking websites and they were not shy in using it for research and career activities to upgrade their academic knowledge.

The main purpose of the present study was to explore the impact of Internet and social networking websites on college students. This investigation was carried out between the samples of 280 college students. It was found that there is no significant difference between the impact of Internet and social networking websites on boys and girls students. However the impact was significant on both boys and girls.

It was also found that there is no significant difference between the purpose of using Internet among the boys and girls students. The findings indicate that maximum number of boys and girls were use Internet and social networking websites for educational purpose and less number of students were use Internet and social networking websites for chatting, information sharing, and online shopping. From the findings of the study it may be concluded that use of Internet and social networking for academic purpose have significant impact on academic performance.

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