



An Inquiry to Attitude of Secondary School Students Towards Use of Computers in Learning Science

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to find out the attitude of students towards the use of computers in learning science in Lucknow city. The qualitative study of descriptive survey type was employed in this study. A sample of 100 students was taken from secondary schools of Lucknow city. A structured questionnaire titled Computer Attitude Test using four point scale was used to collect data. The result of findings showed that most of the students had positive attitude towards use of computers in learning science but they lacked support from the teachers. They believed use of computers in the class can help them perform better.

KEYWORDS : computer, attitude, students, learning , science.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic technologies such as television, audio-video and computers have capability of revolutionizing the quality, productivity and availability of education. The use of computer in education offers new opportunities to deliver information and for enhancing learning process. With expanding arena of teaching and learning efforts are made to make learning effective through use of computer. The impact of using computers will be more if the attitude of students are known as human-computer interaction is a complex phenomenon and feelings involved with the relationship are difficult to identify. Ambivalent attitude towards computer could be deterrent to using computer in learning environment. It seems likely that students' attitude towards acceptance of computer technology may be important in integration of electronic technologies in classroom. Before education incorporates the new electronic media educators need to discern what is different about it and this process may lead to better consensus though the exploration of attitude of students towards it. This study is an effort to investigate the attitude of secondary school students towards use of computers in learning.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Suwana, R(2004) conducted a study on primary students and found that student favoured use of computers in classroom. Jayaraman, S(2006) in his study found that students had positive attitude towards use of computers. Patel, Kinnary(2008) in his study found that both students and teachers had favourable attitude towards study using computers. Noor and Jeyavany(2012) in their study observed that students had positive attitude towards use of computers but teachers were not well versed to use it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Title of the study

An Inquiry to Attitude of Secondary School Students towards use of Computers in Learning Science.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the attitude of secondary school students of Lucknow city towards the use of computers in learning science.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the attitudes of secondary school students towards use of computers in learning science.
2. To study the support of teachers in using computers to learn science.
3. To investigate the facilities provided by the schools for the use of computers in learning science.

Research Design

The research design for this study was a qualitative study of descriptive survey as the attitude of the students need to be analysed. The survey method is chosen as it gathers data from the relatively large

number of cases and brings about the existing picture of the conditions that prevail

Population

The population of the study are the secondary school students studying science.

Sample

The sample comprises of 200 students of secondary schools of Lucknow city. There were 118 males and 82 female students. Four schools of urban area were taken in which 1 school was government and 3 were private which had the facility of computers in their school.

Tool

The tool used to collect data was a Computer Attitude Questionnaire constructed by the researcher. It consists of 18 items, first 10 items to observe attitude of students, 4 items to study the support of teachers and 4 items to observe the facilities provided in the school. The responses were to be marked on four point Likert scale of strongly disagree, disagree, agree and strongly agree which provided the attitude of students towards use of computer, support of their teachers and the facilities provided by the school.

Data collection

The data was collected by administering the questionnaire on the students. The institutions were coordinated before the collection of data. The respondents were given proper instruction by the instructor before taking their responses related to the questionnaire. The test was administered for 30 minutes and after that completely filled copies were taken back from the students. Their responses were analysed using the frequency and percentage of the students positive towards the given item. The observations were shown pictorially and inferences were drawn.

Limitations

The study was conducted only in Lucknow city, only secondary school students of science stream were considered.

Result , Analysis , Discussion

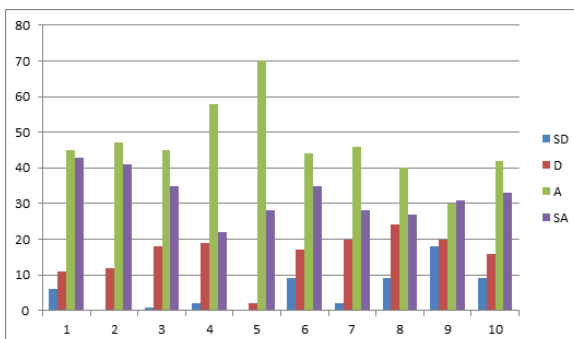
Objectives of the study were analysed using the questionnaire on the responses of the students. The responses observed were divided into three categories: their attitude towards computers, support of teachers for use of computers and the facility provided in school and analysed accordingly as shown in the tables.

Objective 1: To examine the attitudes of secondary school students towards use of computers in learning science.

TABLE: 1

Srl. no.	Item	S.D		D		A		SA	
		F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
1.	I enjoy use of computers while studying.	12	06	22	11	86	43	80	40
2.	I study effectively with use of computers.	00	00	24	12	94	47	82	41
3.	I feel comfortable when I study through computers.	04	02	36	18	90	45	70	35
4.	I find studying science interesting using computers.	12	06	38	19	116	58	34	17
5.	I am less embarrassed when I use computers to study.	00	00	04	02	140	70	56	28
6.	I remember the content for longer time when I study through computer.	18	09	34	17	88	44	60	30
7.	I would like to attend classes which use computers to teach.	12	06	40	20	92	46	56	28
8.	I support the use of computers in the classroom.	18	09	48	24	80	40	54	27
9.	I prefer learning with computer than teacher.	38	19	40	20	60	30	62	31
10.	Learning through computers makes me confident.	18	09	32	16	84	42	66	33

The first objective was to study the attitude of students towards learning through use of computers. On the analysis of responses it was seen that 83% of students enjoyed the use of computers while learning while 17% did not enjoy its use. 41% of students strongly agreed that they learn efficiently using computers. 80% of the students were comfortable when they used computers to study, only 20% of them were not so. 58% of students agreed that they found learning through computers interesting while 17 % strongly agreed to it. 98% of the students said that they were less embarrassed when they used computers to study. 78% of students to attend classes using computers while 22 % of them disagreed to it. 27% of students strongly supported the use of computers in classroom. 61% of students preferred to learn through computers than teachers. 75% of them said that learning through computers makes them confident while 16% of them did not agree to this.

**Figure 1 : Attitude of students towards use of computers**

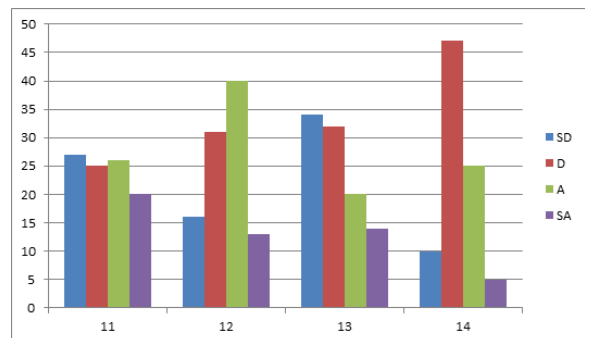
Objective 2: To study the support of teachers in using computers to learn science.

The table 2 shows us the responses regarding the support teachers provide in using computers to learn science.

TABLE: 2

Srl. no.	Item	SD		D		A		SA	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
11.	My teachers make use of computers while teaching.	58	29	50	25	52	26	40	20
12.	The teachers are always ready to explain us content using computers.	32	16	62	31	80	40	26	13
13.	Our teachers regularly take us to computer lab to teach other subjects.	68	34	64	32	40	20	28	14
14.	Teachers are always ready to fulfil our queries regarding computers.	20	10	94	47	50	25	36	18

The second objective was to study the support of teachers to the use of computers in classroom. 20% of the students strongly agreed that their teachers used computers while teaching, 54% of the students gave negative response regarding this. 40% of the students reported that their teachers were always ready to explain the content using computers while 31% of the students disagreed to this. 66% of the students reported that their teachers do not take them regularly to computer laboratory to study. Only 14% of the students strongly agreed that their teachers regularly take them to the computer laboratory. 57 % of the students confirmed that their teachers were not ready to fulfil their queries regarding computers.

**Figure 2: Support of teachers for use of computers**

Objective :3 To investigate the facilities provided by the school for the use of computers in learning science.

TABLE: 3

Srl.no.	Item	SD		D		A		SA	
		F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
15.	Computer laboratory in my school is well equipped.	14	07	44	22	80	40	62	31
16.	The number of computers in the laboratory is appropriate.	62	31	94	47	34	17	10	05
17.	There are smart boards in my class are used while teaching.	60	30	70	35	44	22	26	13
18.	We are always appreciated for using computers to study in school.	28	14	52	26	82	41	38	19

On analysing the responses of students 71% of students said that their computer laboratory was well equipped. 78% of the students found that the numbers of computers in the laboratory was inappropriate. 65% of students said that teachers did not use the smart boards in the classroom. 60% of the students found that they were appreciated for using computers in the school.

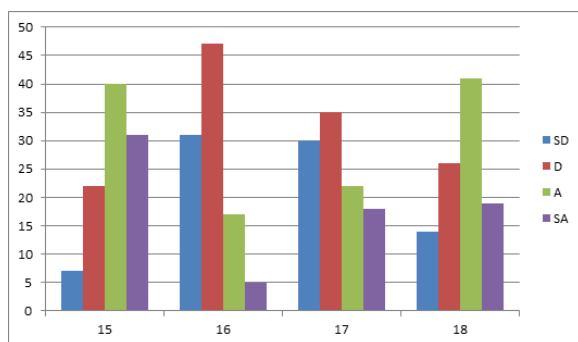


Figure 3: Facilities provided in the school

FINDINGS

The major findings of study are

- Majority of the students enjoyed use of computers and found learning through it interesting.
- Most of the students were less embarrassed and more confident on learning through computers.
- Support for using computers while learning was shown by the students.
- It was seen that support of teachers was not appreciable and the lacked in the knowledge of computers.
- The schools were well equipped in the resources of computers but they were not properly utilized.
- Most of the students said that the school supported the use of computers while learning.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

From the present study it can be seen that student find learning through computers interesting its use can make learning effective. The teachers need to increase their knowledge to properly utilize the resources of the school .

CONCLUSIONS

The study brings about the attitude of students towards the use of computers in learning science. It was found that most of the students found the use of computers interesting and felt that they can learn better using computers the study also indicated that the support of teachers in using computers was not much there need to be more support by the teachers. Although the institutions had proper infrastructure but proper direction is required to make complete use of available resources. Thus we can conclude that students show positive attitude towards the use of computers while learning and if teacher and institutional resources are adeptly employed the teaching learning conditions can improve in the schools.

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