



Scientific Study of Internet: An Overview of Review of Literature

KEYWORDS

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Introduction

Information occupies an enviable place in the process of development. Empowerment has become the watch word of the 21st century. Information has become a very powerful tool and resource of empowerment of people. Empowerment is generally defined as a process which enables the teachers, researchers, students, professionals and other sections of society to control the factors and forces which affect their lives. The Internet provides all time and all round access to information resources and services to the mankind regardless of space and time. Scholars have emphasized the true nature of Internet as means of information sharing in the electronic form, with an electronic Internet network which provides access to, and delivery from, external worldwide information and knowledge sources. In the present times, scientific study of Internet assumes great significance in the present age of information revolution academically and otherwise.

Statement of the Problem

The present review of literature concerning the role of Internet as a medium of communication was carried out because:

- In this age of information explosion, command over information is an unmistakable index of power and development.
- Information acquisition among the users becomes highly relevant since the world moves to world's knowledge-based society.
- The Internet occupies an enviable status in the processes of individual development and collective development in modern society.
- The present generation of users of Internet is becoming more connected to the virtual world through Internet in these two cities.
- A constant and continued research on the role of Internet in the lives of the people representing different walks of life across the globe is imperative.

Review of Literature

Aina (1994:01) assessed the computer literacy among the librarians in developing nations and noted that computer literacy was widely accepted as an essential part of the elementary education of an average citizen in most developed countries.

Gray (1996:12) investigated the global information infrastructure from the point of view of application of Internet in modern organizations including the educational institutions.

Bell (1997:03) evaluated the practical utility of Internet based information resources and services and observed that teachers and students found new opportunities in the Internet.

Kim (1997:16) examined the children's Internet use behavior and how the Internet usage changes children's daily lives. The study revealed that children who spent more time on the Internet were more likely to spend more time with other media, more time on some kind of physical activities, and were

more socially involved.

Izenberg and Lieberman (1998:15) studied the relationship between the web, communication trends, and children's health and noted that Internet-based information resources and services provided academically useful and relevant support to the teachers and students in modern society.

Kraut et al. (1998:21) assessed the issue of social impact of the Internet in terms of social involvement and psychological well-being. The scholars concluded that Internet use was associated with the decline of social involvement as measured by communication within the family, size of local social network, and psychological well-being.

Bakos (1998:02) evaluated the emerging role of electronic marketplaces on the Internet and noted that Internet emerged as the prominent means of online communication between the service providers and customers.

Turrow (1999:55) analyzed the relationship between Internet and the parents and children and observed that the majority of American parents with computers at home juggled the dream and the nightmare of the Internet.

Borgman (2000:04) analyzed the evolution of communication from Gutenberg to the global information infrastructure in modern society and observed that modern educational institutions were not fully and properly equipped with the advanced Internet based resources and services.

Flanagin and Metzger (2000:11) examined the perceptions of Internet information credibility and noted that the credibility of the Internet as a medium is questionable.

Kubey (2000:22) studied the relationship between television exposure and Internet exposure among the people and noted that Internet as a tool of new communication technologies drove the young people towards greater utility.

Oravec (2000:36) investigated the Internet and computer technology hazards from the perspective of family counseling and noted that the Internet not only offered a new way to communicate with people but also enabled them to connect with a virtual community where people have shared interests.

Pew Research Center (2000:39) examined the role of Internet in the cultivation of relationships with family and friends and observed that the Internet veterans do more things, use the Internet more frequently and longer.

DiMaggio et.al (2001:08) assessed the social implications of the Internet and noted that new media forms like Internet and mobile phone have become necessary tools of educating the people.

Calvert and Jordan (2001:05) analyzed the Internet exposure

among the children who studied from primary to pre-university levels and noted that the girls used the Internet as much as boys in the study area.

DiMaggio et.al. (2001:08) investigated the social implications of the Internet in modern society and observed that the Internet played an important role in the educational and personal development of the students.

Gustavo (2001:14) examined the social relationships and Internet use among adolescents in Israel and noted that heavy Internet users were more likely to engage in outdoor activities, including sports, movies, concerts, and parties.

Wellman et.al. (2001:57) evaluated how new high-speed Internet access affected the social networks that people and community have. The study revealed that high level of Internet exposure brought about low level of social mobility among the users.

LaRose, Eastin and Gregg (2001:26) studied the reformulating the Internet and observed that school students and adolescents were the active Internet users since they found it as an alternative to a companion in modern society.

Mesch (2001:27) assessed the social relationships and Internet use among adolescents in Israel and noted that most of the young Internet users in the high schools and pre-university centres were misled by the unhealthy Internet exposure.

Moody (2001:28) analyzed the relationship between Internet use and loneliness and noted that young children and adolescents were isolated from the studies, sports and other healthy activities.

Shah et.al. (2001:46) studied the patterns of Internet use and the production of social capital and argued that not only how much people use the Internet but also how they use it should be examined in the study of impact of new media on people's civic life.

Wellman e.al. (2001:57) examined the Internet exposure and reported that the Internet might reduce commitment to on-line community.

Gross et.al. (2002:13) evaluated the Internet use and noted that young adolescents were greatly attracted by the power of Internet which is known for opportunities and threats in modern society.

Kraut et.al. (2002:20) investigated the Internet paradox and noted that Internet use had positive impact on the social involvement of students and other users.

Laloo (2002:25) examined the Internet exposure among various sections of society and noted that Internet based resources facilitated all round learning, interaction and development.

Porter and Sallot (2003:40) evaluated the Internet based information resources and services and suggested that modern educational institutions should be equipped with advanced electronic resources and services.

Murillo (2004:29) analyzed the relationship between institutions and adoption of Internet and noted that transactions affected the adoption of electronic educational and commerce.

Doreswamy (2004:09) investigated the Internet exposure among young students and observed that Internet facilitated globalization of knowledge and expertise.

Eunson (2005:10) evaluated the utility of Internet and suggested that Internet based information resources and services

should popularize among various sections of users.

Dewdney and Ride (2006:07) investigated the role of Internet and observed that schools, colleges and universities gained immensely because of the new Internet based resources.

Powell and Clarke (2006:41) assessed the Internet information seeking behavior of students, teachers and other sections of society and noted that Internet emerged as a prominent source of information and guidance in the new millennium.

Sami and Pangannaiah (2006:44) carried out a literature survey on the effects of Internet and provided interesting findings which reflect the problems encountered by a range of users in different countries.

Kumar and Kaur (2006:23) examined the Internet use by teachers and students in engineering colleges of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and noted that Internet was widely used by the teachers and students.

Nicholas et.al. (2007:34) explored the Internet exposure and noted that digital libraries changed their profiles and working patterns in order to cope with the new generation of users.

Tulika (2008:54) assessed the relationship between culture, Internet and gratifications and observed that Internet affected the society in culture in the new millennium.

Vishwanath (2008:56) evaluated the global Internet diffusion on the basis of a cross-national study and noted that Internet had shrunk the world into a single global village.

Ribak (2008:43) studied the Internet power in the social context and pointed out that Internet had become a necessity in modern society since it bridged the gap between the computer literates and illiterates.

Tulika (2008:53) assessed the cultural impact of Internet in modern society and noted that Internet had considerable impact on the socio-cultural aspects of modern society.

Parke et.al (2009:37) examined the social impact of Internet gambling in modern society and observed that students and youth were considerably affected by the Internet gambling.

Nambiar (2009:32) explored the role of Internet and noted that Internet provided all round and all time information resources and services to the fraternity of media professionals.

Carmella (2009:06) evaluated the social impact of the Internet and observed that high Internet exposure among the students and other users had minimized the social interaction among the users.

Krause (2009:18) studied the impact of Internet on human behavior in modern society and noted that maximum Internet exposure made the users highly self-centered and socially immobile.

Nkanu and Okon (2010:35) analyzed the digital divide in Nigerian society and pointed out that the widening imbalances of access to ICT had resulted in inequitable access to ICTs and other internet-related technologies.

Pastula (2010:38) investigated the utilization of Internet based resources and suggested that teachers, students and other sections of society should be enabled to utilize the Internet.

Pulikotil (2010:42) examined the Internet addiction among the university students and noted that highest exposure to Internet brought about decrease in the pro social behaviors and cultivation of human relations.

Kuriyan et.al (2010:24) conducted an extensive review of literature on information and communication technologies (ICTs), development and trust and observed that trust was a broadly defined, yet relatively understudied concept in the context of Internet utility.

Shivaprasad et. al. (2010:48) assessed the Internet exposure among engineering college teachers and noted that digital information resources had become the vital part of modern teachers, students and researchers.

Sridevi (2010:49) examined the process of e-learning based on Internet and reported that urban school teachers and science teachers have a highly favorable attitude.

Konnur and Kavita Rao (2010:17) examined the relationship between information literacy and Internet exposure and suggested a multi-disciplinary approach to information literacy research.

Naik and Akshatha (2010:31) evaluated the Internet use in modern libraries and suggested that virtual libraries need strategic planning and development of cost-effective information technologies.

Swain (2011:52) carried out a survey on 45 million Internet users in India and noted integration of Internet use with public spaces in respect of young generation of Internet users.

Senthil kumaran (2011:45) evaluated the Internet based resources and services and noted that professional librarians had great responsibility in modern society as content managers.

Namsu (2011:33) evaluated the integration of Internet use with public spaces with respect to college students and noted that the use of the wireless Internet brought about the offline socializing in the study area.

Kraut et.al. (2011:19) studied the Internet paradox which is a social technology that reduced social involvement and psychological well-being of the young generation of users.

Wellman et.al. (2011:58) assessed the Internet in everyday life and noted that most of the users of Internet belonged to the category of adults studying in schools, colleges and universities.

Sridhar (2011:50) analyzed the nature of the countless 'netizens' who have gained the benefit of Internet exposure for various reasons and noted several factors associated with Internet exposure.

Shields and Kane (2011:47) examined the social and psychological correlates of Internet use among college students and noted that Internet use was related to college students' face

to face relationships with friends and acquaintances.

Wilson (2012:59) evaluated the relationship between Internet exposure and social and cultural variables and noted that the Internet users were attracted by western culture and experienced displacement of existing media and patterns of behavior.

Naik (2012:30) examined the virtual environment in Karnataka and stated that the future agenda must deal with the relationship between digital corporate library and corporate social responsibility.

Sukanya, (2012:51) assessed the socio-cultural impact of Internet on society with reference to Karnataka and observed that Internet had become a prominent medium of communication in Karnataka State.

Inferences

Review of literature on the access and utility of Internet in modern society across the globe revealed certain interesting facts. Most of the studies in India and abroad are conducted on Internet exposure among the 'netizens' in different spheres of human life since they depended on Internet for their day to day personal and professional endeavors. Majority of the studies on Internet exposure are conducted in developed countries, especially USA and Europe. Considerable numbers of studies are also conducted on Internet access and utility of teachers, researchers and students at university level in general and research and development organizations in particular. Majority of the studies have dealt with the use of Internet by the professionals and researchers than students at various levels. There are some studies, which have specifically dealt with the access and utility of Internet-based information resources and services with a special focus on American and European countries. There are very few studies, which deal with Internet-based information management with special reference to India. Some general studies are carried out on the information needs of professionals, researchers and students in Indian society. There are quite a few studies, which have dealt with the information needs and information use behaviors of modern professionals belonging to research and development mainstreams in India and other developing countries.

Conclusion

Few researchers have assessed the growth, development, role, problems and prospects of Internet based information resources and services in India and abroad. However, quite a few studies are distantly related with the main theme of the present study are briefly presented in this chapter. The review of literature clearly reveals that adequate scientific investigations should be carried out in a developing country like India on the access, utility and impact of Internet with reference to specific sections of users.

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