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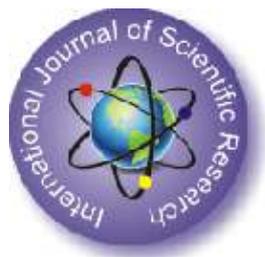
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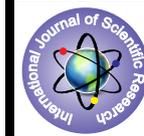
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## Utilization Of Computers In Secondary Schools



### Education

KEYWORDS :

Dr. Praveena, K. B.

Department of Studies in Education, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore

Computers in the classroom include any digital technology used to enhance, supplement, or replace a traditional educational curriculum. As computers have become more accessible, inexpensive, and powerful, the demand for this technology has increased, leading to more frequent use of computer resources within classes, and a decrease in the student-to-computer ratio within schools.

Computer literacy is as important for our children to acquire as any other "basic skill". But I'm not a fan of the wholesale introduction of computers into our schools, particularly the junior ones. How many computers a school has is not the issue - the issue is, how do they use them? In many cases, the answer is: poorly. The reasons are simple enough. Foremost, the teachers have insufficient training and experience with computers. Computers are not yet an integrated part of the school curriculum, and every school and teacher re-invents the wheel, trying to find good software, trying to work out how to fit it into the classroom curriculum, trying to work out schedules to make sure every student gets a fair go, struggling with the lack of technical support. And of course, in many cases (perhaps most), the computers are old, with the associated problems of being more likely to have technical problems, being slow, limited in memory, incompatible with current software, and so on.

#### The most important problems schools have with computers:

- lack of financial resources (to buy enough computers, up-to-date computers, enough printers and other peripherals, licenses for good software, technical support)
- the inability of teachers to know how to use the computers effectively
- difficulty in integrating computers into the school / classroom curriculum (problems of use, of scheduling, of time)

Using computers effectively is much more than simply being able to type an essay or produce a graph. Parents and educators who deplore the obsession with computers in schools see computers as eroding children's basic skills and knowledge, because they only see computers being used as copy-and-paste and making-it-pretty devices. But computers have potential far beyond that.

#### Computers can be used to help:

- extend the scope of searches
- retrieve precisely targeted data with greater speed and accuracy
- increase the amount of data held ready for use
- sift relevant data from irrelevant
- turn data into information

The true value of a computer isn't seen until the user can use it not only as a presentation tool (for making work attractive), and as a productivity tool (for producing work more quickly, effectively, thoroughly), but also as a cognitive tool.

#### Computers can support meaningful learning by

- reducing time spent on mechanical tasks such as rewriting, producing graphs, etc
- helping find information
- helping organize information
- making it easier to share information and ideas with others

#### Operational Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts Used in the Study:

- Utilization of Computers: In this study utilization of computers refers to use of computers by teachers and students for their academic purposes.
- Secondary Schools: In this study secondary schools refer

to Government Secondary Schools consist of 9th and 10th Standard in Mysore City.

#### Need and Importance of the Study:

This study is helpful for both teachers and students to understand the use of computers to meet the objectives of their education. The stake holders of educations should understand the need of computers and create opportunity for students and teachers to encourage the use of computers to enhance their competencies and knowledge.

#### Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the utilization of computers in secondary schools.
2. To study the difference between male and female teachers with reference to utilization of computers in secondary schools.
3. To study the difference between more experienced and less experienced teachers with reference to utilization of computers in secondary schools.
4. To study the difference between male and female students with reference to utilization of computers in secondary schools.

#### Sample of the Study:

Simple Random Sampling Method is used. The following is the sampling frame for the study.

Sl.No.	Groups	Male	Female
1.	Secondary School Teachers	25	25
2.	Secondary School Students	250	250

#### Tools Used in the Study:

'Computer Utilization Inventory' developed and standardized by the researcher is used for the study. This questionnaire consisted of 20 items with 0.7 coefficient of stability when tested with Cronbach Alpha Internal Consistency.

#### Statistical Technique Used:

'Percentage Analysis' is used to analyze the objectives of the study. The study design is a descriptive survey.

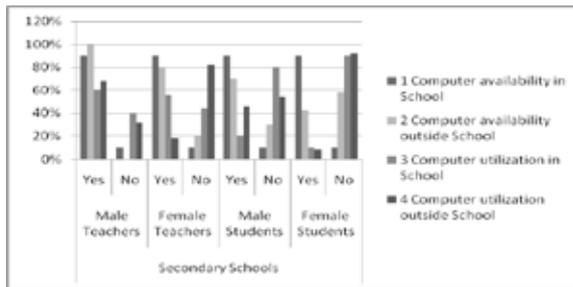
#### Analysis of Data Obtained:

Table: 1

#### Difference between Male and Female Teachers / Students With Reference to Utilization of Computers in Secondary Schools.

Sl.No	Items/ Groups	Secondary Schools							
		Male Teachers		Female Teachers		Male Students		Female Students	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Computer availability in School	90 %	10 %	90 %	10 %	90 %	10 %	90 %	10 %
2.	Computer availability outside School	100 %	0 %	80 %	20 %	70 %	30 %	42 %	58 %
3.	Computer utilization in School	60 %	40 %	56 %	44 %	20 %	80 %	10 %	90 %
4.	Computer utilization outside School	68 %	32 %	18 %	82 %	46 %	54 %	8 %	92 %

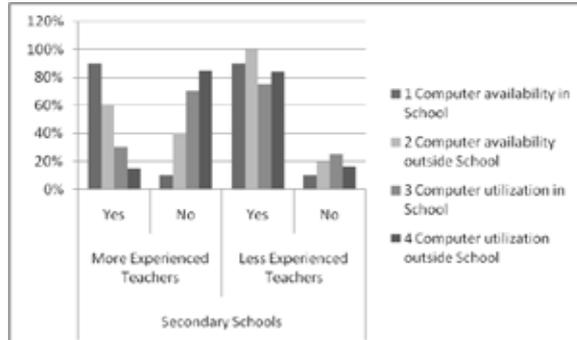
Column Chart-1



**Table – 2:**  
**Difference between More Experienced and Less Experienced Teachers with Reference to Utilization of Computers in Secondary Schools**

Sl.No	Items/ Groups	Secondary Schools			
		More Experienced Teachers		Less Experienced Teachers	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Computer availability in School	90 %	10 %	90 %	10 %
2.	Computer availability outside School	60 %	40 %	100 %	20%
3.	Computer utilization in School	30 %	70 %	75 %	25 %
4.	Computer utilization outside School	15 %	85 %	84 %	16 %

**Column Chart - 2**



**Interpretation of Results:**

In table-1 above the study clearly indicates a fair number of secondary school teachers and students wish to utilize computers for their academic purposes. In teaching group more teachers that too male teachers are using computers in good numbers i.e., 60% to 68%. Even female teachers are not lagging behind with utilizing computers inside the school i.e. 56%. But only 18% female teachers are utilizing

computers outside the school. In the case of students the number will be significantly less in connection with utilizing computers inside and outside the school.

- In table-1 above though the availability of computers in secondary schools are ranging from 90% to 100%. Only 60% of male teachers utilize it in schools and 68 % of them utilize computers outside the school. In the case of female teachers 56% of them are utilizing it in School and only 18% of them are utilizing it outside the school. This may be due to inconvenience for female teachers to go internet cafes and also they are not having computers in their homes.
- In table-2 above it is clear that more experienced teachers are not utilizing the computers for their academic purposes compare to less experienced teachers. Inside the school only 30% and outside the school only 15% of more experience teachers are utilizing computers. But 75% and 84% less experienced teachers are utilizing the computers both inside and outside the school respectively. This is a very good development among young and less experienced teachers.
- In table-1 the number of students utilizing the computers varies to male and female. 20% to 46% of male students are utilizing the computers both inside and outside the classroom respectively. But only 8% to 10% of female students are utilizing the computers both inside and outside the classroom respectively. This clearly indicates that the female students are not accessing the computers as accessed by male students. We can also notice that students are not utilizing the computers in schools as utilized by teachers.

**Educational Implications of the study:**

- The stake holders of education should be given priority to educate about the utilization of computers in secondary schools.
- The schools should be well equipped with computers and access to computers for both teachers and students should be given on priority and requirement.
- The female teachers and students are to be given special training to create awareness to utilize computers. Even the male students are to be given importance.
- Training should be given for both teachers and students about how to get maximum benefit from utilizing the computers for their academic and professional development.
- More experienced teachers are to be given training and workshops are to be conducted in order to bring awareness about the benefits of utilization of computers.

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