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Internet Use among University Students: A Case Study of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, BTAD, Assam.

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ABSTRACT : *The present study is undertaken with a view to know the frequency of internet use, preference of time and purpose of using internet among the Bodoland University students. The sample of the present study is drawn from PG students, M.Phil and Ph. D. scholars. The sample is consisted of 100 students 50 each belong to male and female category. For selection of sample purposive sampling technique has been adopted. In order to assess for surfing internet self-designed questionnaire comprising of 16 items relating to internet access was used. On the basis of filled up questionnaire received from the respondents, the data has been analyzed and tabulated. For data analysis and interpretation, percentage analysis and pie chart has been adopted. The present work was carried out during August 2017 to October, 2017. Therefore the present investigation is delimited to the students of Bodoland University Kokrajhar only.*

Keywords: Internet, ICT, Electronic resources, Bodoland University, Digital Lab.

I. Introduction:

Internet is a multipurpose tool with numerous potentials. It enables students to communicate with other students abroad and thus share each other's ideas, knowledge, experiences, and cultures. It enhances skills and capabilities of students, which assist them in studies and in professional life.

The academic landscape in education sector has been comprehensively transformed by the recent advances in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Consequently, the teaching and learning processes along with educational programmes and pedagogy of instruction are being restructured, reformed to meet the expectations of a whole new breed of students entering the Universities. ICT applications in education sector can greatly enhance the quality of education. The learners, through multifarious ICT applications, can control the content, time and pace of learning. It is also one of the greatest 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 a universal fact that the use of internet has a great impact on the student s academic carrier. The use of Internet has become a very popular

in many areas as well as in education in recent years. Accordingly, Internet access in schools has increased greatly over the ast 20 years [1]. As this study has shown, more students are relying on the Internet for their academic needs than any other areas.

Now a day's internet is very effective and popular tool used by the students for education as well as variety of other purposes including entertainment. Internet provides an interactive environment for sharing as well as seeing of information on a wide, diverge and variety of subjects. Consequently, it has become very popular among the student community; and it is also used by them to supplement their studies.

Many people and students are educated through using internet and media. It is the most obvious and inevitable element to experience this relation in the routine life too. It is clear that internet has a key role in human life. So we need to obtain a lot of important information about internet about relations with other variables especially in educational contexts that are important for young generations. So the present study is an attempt to study the Internet use among Bodoland university students.

II. Review of Related Literatue :

Ruzgar [2] studied the purpose of the Internet use and learning via Internet. It was concluded that the Internet bas become an integral part of college life and its usage is approaching 100 percent among students. It was found that 36 percent of the students spent 1-10 hours per week on the Internet In terms of activities online, sending/receiving e-mail topped the list, followed by reading news and finding sports information, research for school-related work, chat, research for products and services, and downloading Images. Because of their online activities students watched less television.

Biradar and others [3] conducted a study on internet usage by the Student and faculties in Kuvempu University. The results indicated that 42.1 % students use internet twice a week and 31.25% faculties use it every day. The majority of students as well as faculties use Internet for study / teaching purpose. The favourite place for using Internet is library followed by commercial places. A thumping majority of respondents are satisfied with Internet sources and services.

Ani investigated the extent and level of Internet access as well as the use of electronic resources by undergraduate students in three Nigerian Universities. Ani's fmdings revealed that undergraduate students use the Internet extensively. However, access to the Internet in the university libraries, departments/faculties and university computer/ICT centers was grossly poor due to the infrastructure. The majority of the respondents relied on private, commercial Internet services, and cybercafés. It was also found that Internet education for the respondents is needed for the use of electronic resources and databases.

Ozad [4] explored the use of the Internet in tertiary media education. It was suggested that in addition to using the Internet as a source of information, students and media should also use it as a tool of communication.

Sakina Bashir [5] conducted a study on Internet Use among University Students: A Survey in University of the Punjab, Lahore. The objective of the study was to explore the Internet use behaviour of students. The results show that most of the students use this technology for course related reading and research needs. They are new users of the Internet. They use it at the University Library's Digital Lab Unit as well as their departments and homes. A large number of them have learnt to use the Internet tools by themselves, or relying on assistance from friends without attending any formal training programs. Ease of work and time saving are the reasons of Internet use among university students.

III. Objectives of the Study :

The objectives of the study are:
1. To find out the frequency of Internet use among University students.
2. To find out the preference of time for accessing internet.
3. To find out the purpose of using internet among Bodoland University Students.

IV.Methodology:

To collect the requisite data related to various aspects of assessing internet self designed questionnaire was used. The researcher established a rapport with them. Initially the researcher was distributed the questionnaire and requisite directions and instructions were given. One can spend as much as time as required. But in general it consumes maximum 20 to 25 minutes.

Sample:

The Sample of the present study is drawn from PG students, M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars. The sample is consisted of 100 students of different subjects in Bodoland University. Out of 100 students 50 each belong to male and female category. For selection of sample purposive sampling technique has been adopted.

Tools Used:-

The self designed questionnaire comprising of 16 items relating to internet access has been used.

Statistical Techniques Used:-

Percentage analysis and pie chart were used to analysis and interpret the data.

V. Result and Discussion:

Table-1

Qualification wise distribution of the respondents

Student Ednl. Qualification	Male	Female	Grand Total
M.A.	26	32	58
M.Sc.	8	9	17
M.Phil	0	6	6
Ph.D.	16	3	19
Total	50	50	100

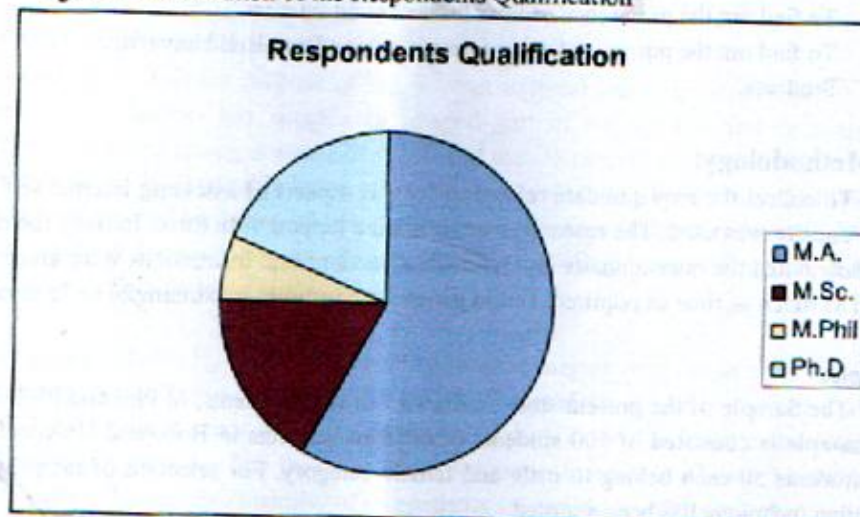Figure:- 1 Distribution of the Respondents Qualification

Table-1 and figure-1 clearly shows the qualification wise distribution of the respondents. Out of 100 respondents, about 58 respondents are M.A., 19 Ph.D. Scholars, 17 M.Sc. and 6 M. Phil. Scholars.
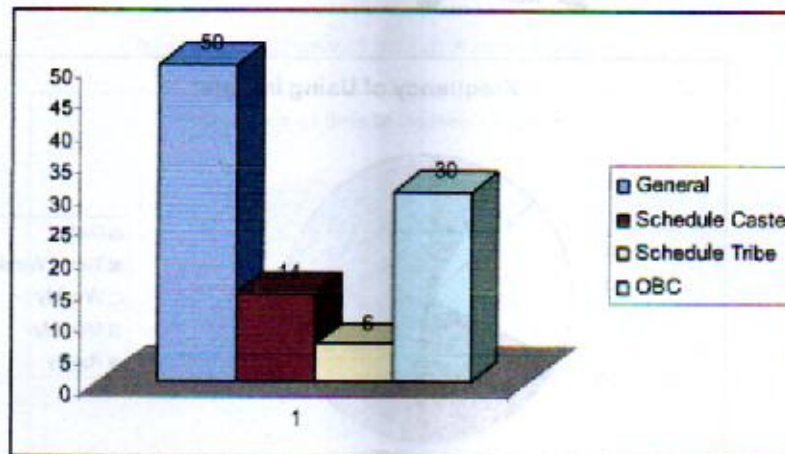
Table-2

Distribution by Caste Category of Male and Female respondents

Caste Category	Male	Female	Grand Total
General	30	20	50
Schedule Caste	8	6	14
Schedule Tribe	4	2	6
OBC	17	13	30
Total	59	41	100

Figure:- 2 Distribution by Caste Category of the Respondents

In the present study, the respondents in the sample have been categorized into four category:- (1) General Category (2) Scheduled Castes (3) Scheduled Tribes and (4) Other Backward Classes (O.B.C.).

In the study out of 100 respondents 50 belong to General Category, 30 belong to OBC, 6 belong to STs and SC category in the sample is 14   Figure-2 clearly shows this representation.

Table-3

Frequency of Using Internet

Frequency of using	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Daily	26	52	21	42	47
Twice a Week	10	20	11	22	21
Weekly	9	18	10	20	19
Monthly	2	4	3	6	5
Rarely	3	6	5	10	8
Total	50	100	50	100	100
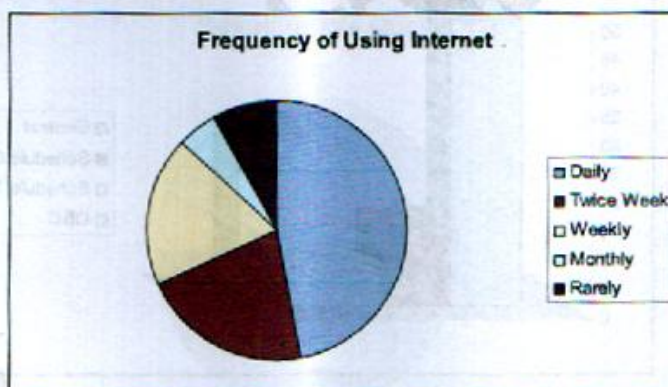
Figure:- 2

Table-3 and figure-3 shows the frequency of using internet by Bodoland University students. It has been observed that 47% are used daily, 21% are used twice a week, 19% are used weekly, 8% are used rarely, and only 5% are used monthly. Among 50 male respondents majority 52% respondents are used daily, 20% are used twice in a week, another 18% are used weekly, 6% are used rarely and very less number i.e. 4 % used monthly.

Among 50 female respondents 42% are used daily, 22% are used twice a week, 20% are used weekly, 10% are used rarely and 6% are used monthly.

Internet is one of the most important and powerful means for information retrieval and dissemination. It helps students/researchers in collecting the right information at a right time easily and also updates their knowledge. So they use internet daily.

Table-4
Preference of time to access internet

Preference of time	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Morning	5	10	3	6	8
Afternoon	9	18	6	12	15
Evening	12	24	10	20	22
Night	20	40	25	50	45
Late night	4	8	6	12	10
Total	50	100	50	100	100

Figure:- 4 Preference of time to Access Internet

Preference of time to access internet
- Morning
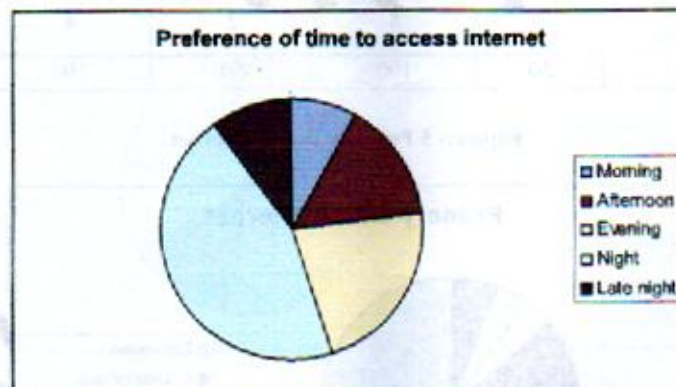- Afternoon
- Evening
- Night
- Late night

Table-4 and figure-4 presents the preferences of time to access internet. It reveals that out of 100 respondents 45% maximum number of respondents prefers to access at night time and which is followed by evening 22%, afternoon 15%, prefer at late night 10% and 8% prefer in morning.

Table-4 further shows that among 50 male respondents 40% prefer night time to access internet and which is followed by 24% in evening, 10% prefer morning and another 18% access in afternoon and only 8% at late night to access internet.

Among 50 female respondents 50 prefer night time to access internet and 20% prefer in evening, only 6% prefer morning time, 12% access in afternoon and another 12% access internet at late night period.

A close observation of the table mentioned above reveals that maximum number of respondents prefers to access night time. Because in the morning they are busy for learning in their respective discipline. Afternoon and evening they spend their spare time in department. So they prefer at night time.

Table-5
Primary use of Internet

Primary Use	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Education	35	70	40	80	75
Entertainment	5	10	6	12	11
Searching Job	3	6	1	2	4
Online Shopping	3	6	1	2	4
Gathering information	4	8	2	4	6
Total	50	100	50	100	100

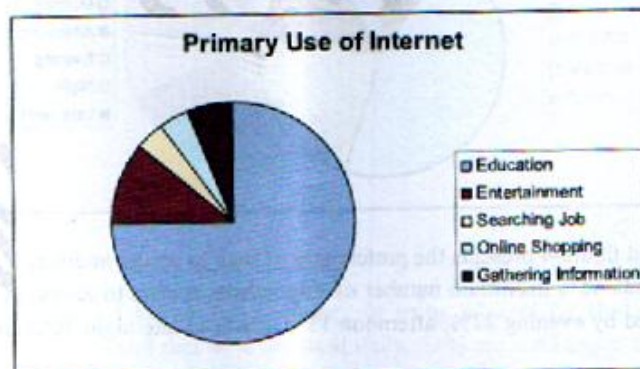**Figure:- 5 Primary use of Internet**

Table-5 and figure-5 shows that a majority of the respondents 75% are using electronic resources for study purpose which is followed by the respondents who are using electronic

resources for the purpose of entertainment 11%, few respondents i.e. 4% are using for searching job and only 6% are using for gathering information.

Table-5
Purpose of using Internet

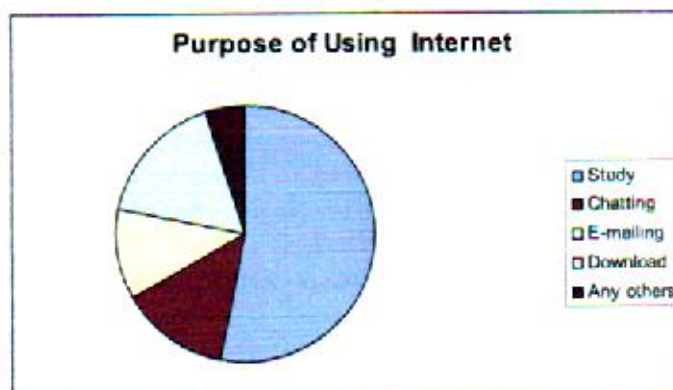| Purpose	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Study	27	54	26	52	53
Chatting	8	16	6	12	14
E-mailing	6	12	5	10	11
Download	7	14	10	20	17
Any Others	2	4	3	6	5
Total	50	100	50	100	100

Figure:- 6 Purpose of Using Internet

Table-6 and figure-6 shows that maximum numbers of respondents 53% are using internet for their study, which is followed by 17% download material, 14 % for chatting with friends, 11% to send e-mail and 5% used for any others.

The use of internet has become a very popular in education in recent years. Internet access in schools has increased greatly over the last 20 years (Berson,2000). As this study has shown, more students are relying on the Internet for their academic needs than any other areas.

Practical Implications:
The findings of the study listed above have important implications in our university. Some implications are mentioned below:

1. Internet has immense potential for the information in society. It enables the students to get instant information for their varied purposes. In order to make more beneficial and effective, awareness programme for maximum use of Internet should be undertaken by the information Technology Institutions, Libraries and information centers of Universities.

2. The study reveals that the purpose of using internet is mainly for study. But frequently power failure is one of the major problems. So the users are facing lots of problem in accessing internet in academic purpose or collecting other information. To maintain their interest towards these the University must ensure adequate and continuous uninterrupted power supply.

3. Some steps to increase the number of systems with higher configuration and speed of access internet and the library service hours should be increased so that prolonged stay and study, in the library is possible. Proper training is imparted to the faculty members, research scholars and students. The performance for the post-graduate students, research scholars and teachers of the academic community of universities will be increased to make the Bodoland University Campus in particular for effectively accessing to Internet for their academic and research work

VI.Conclusion:

The study showed that the use of the Internet has created a great impact upon the students of Bodoland University in their research and academic works. It is clear from the study that the younger generation has accepted the Internet as a means for accessing to the relevant information for academic and research work. The present study also found that internet plays a key role in day today life.

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