



A STUDY ON INTERNET AWARENESS AMONG THE STUDENTS OF DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been undertaken to access the internet awareness among the students of Dibrugarh University. The researcher adopted both purposive and incidental sampling technique to select the sample for the study. The data were collected from 958 students of both liberal and professional programmes of study using a structured Internet Awareness Scale. Collected data was statistically analyzed and interpreted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Findings of the study indicated that there was a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional Programme of study under Dibrugarh University so far as their awareness towards internet is concerned. A significant difference of internet awareness was also observed between the students of Science, Arts and Commerce stream. The study also revealed that male students have more awareness towards internet than the female students with respect to the dimension of concept of internet, browsing information from internet and browsing academic information from internet.

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INTRODUCTION

The word ‘awareness’ means knowledge or understanding of a situation or subject which is based on information or experience. Hence, the word internet awareness means the ability of an internet user to search the required information from internet using his/her intellectual skills. In other words internet awareness means the capability to access and evaluate online information. The Internet provides a very democratic environment where every student can find a lot of educational information. These educational materials do not undergo any examination. This fact creates difficulties for the student to select the material for educational purposes. Sometimes, the information the student comes across in the internet may not be helpful for the student or it may not be scientific. So, the students must have the proper knowledge of internet so that he/she may be able to analyze the information he/she deals with.

Nowadays internet is very popular tool used by the students for learning as well as for other purposes including entertainment. The internet has brought about many positive and negative changes in student’s academic life. Heavy use of internet affects the academic aspects including their study habits. Some of the research studies have revealed that the use of internet affects the study habits of the students. Lajwanti and Paliwal (2012) in their research study on “*The Impact of Internet use on Study Habits of Higher Secondary Students*” has found that

study habits of internet users and non-users differ significantly and internet users are found better in their study habit than non-users. The use of internet not only affects the Study Habits of the students but it also affects the academic achievement of the students. Asdaque, Khan and Rizvi (2010) in their research study on “*Effect of internet on the Academic performance and social life of University students in Pakistan*” have found that the use of internet is one of the major factors affecting the academic performance and social life of university students. The number of hours spending on internet will affect the CGPA (cumulative grade point average) of students unless the internet is used for study purpose. The students achieve good CGPA, who used internet for academic purposes. Since the students of higher education are the future of our bright civilization, it has therefore become very necessary to analyse the internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University.

Significance of the present study

The growth of internet and the increase in the variety of information disseminated through internet has great implications in education. The development of the internet would be meaningless if it is not used appropriately in education. The use of internet has a great impact on the student’s academic achievement, which has been found out by some of the researchers in their research study (Aadaque, Khan and Rizvi, 2010). The present survey is an attempt to study the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet. The study will be helpful to know about the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet.

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Objectives of the present study

Following are the objectives of the present study

1. To study the level of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet.
2. To compare the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet on the basis of programme of study (Liberal and Professional programme of study).
3. To compare the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet on the basis of stream (Science, Arts and Commerce).
4. To compare the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University regarding the usage of internet on the basis of gender (Male and Female).

Hypotheses

On the basis of the objectives outlined above the following null hypotheses have been formulated by the investigator

H-1: There is no significant difference between the students of liberal and professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards the use of internet are concerned.

H- 2: There is no significant difference between the students of arts; science and commerce Stream of Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards the use of internet are concerned.

H- 3: There is no significant difference between the male and female students of Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards the use of internet are concerned.

Definitions of the key terms

Internet: The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business and government networks, of local to global scope, that are linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless networking technologies. It carries a vast range of information resources and services (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet>)

Internet Awareness: The word ‘awareness’ means knowledge or understanding of a subject, issue or situation. Hence, internet awareness is the people’s knowledge or understanding about internet. In the present study the scores obtained by the students of Dibrugarh University in the internet awareness scale is considered to be the internet awareness of the students. The student, who secured high score in this scale, is considered as highly aware regarding the usage of internet. The four dimensions of internet awareness are – a) the Concept of internet b) Browsing information from internet c) Browsing academic information from internet and d) Communication through internet

Liberal programme of study: Liberal programme of study are the programmes of study which are of pure/basic or interdisciplinary in nature covering the various fields like Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. In the present study the programmes viz M.A/M.sc in Anthropology, M.A in Assamese, M.Sc in Applied Geology, M.A in Applied Psychology, M.Sc in Bioinformatics, M.Sc in Biotechnology, M.Sc in Chemistry, M.A in Economics, M.A in Education,

M.A in English, M.Com in Finance and Marketing ,M.A/M.sc in Geography, M.A in History, M.Sc in life sciences, M.A/M.sc in Maths , M.A in Philosophy, M.Sc in Physics, M.A in Political Science, M.A in Sociology offered under different Departments and Centre for Studies under Dibrugarh University are considered as Liberal programme of study

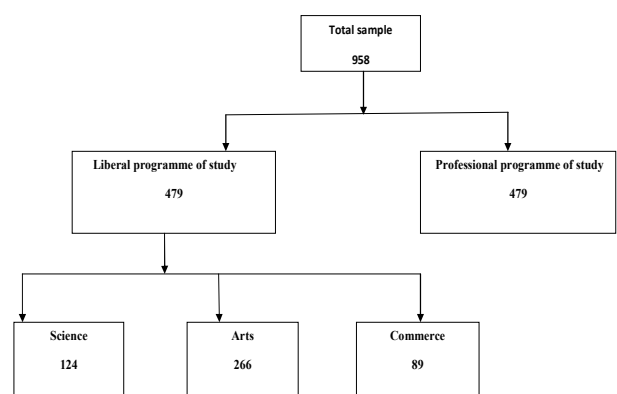
Professional programme of study: Professional Programme of study is the programmes of study in which one studies about the various professional skills and competencies that can help the learner in the earning of their livelihood. In the present study the programmes viz MCA, BCA, B.A.(LL.B, LLM,) MLISc, M.A in performing arts, M.A in Journalism and Mass Comm, BBA, MBA (FT), MSW, M.Tech in Petroleum Geology, M.Tech in Exploration Geophysics, M.Tech in Petroleum Technology, B.Pharm, M.Pharm, B.Tech provided under different Department, Centre for Studies, Institutions under Dibrugarh University are considered as Professional programmes of study.

Methodology of the study

Methods used: In this study the Normative Survey method was used. The researcher collected the data herself, by visiting the selected Departments/Centre for studies/Institutions of the Dibrugarh University.

Population: The population of the present study comprised of all the students of Dibrugarh University under Liberal and Professional programme of study within the university campus.

Sample: In this present research study, the sample of the universe was selected by adopting both purposive and incidental sampling. At first the total population was classified in to two categories under Liberal and Professional programme of study. After that the Liberal programme of study was classified into three different categories according to the nature of the stream i.e. Science, Arts and Commerce. *Purposive sampling technique* was used for selecting the Departments/Centre for Studies / Institutions and *Incidental sampling technique* was used to select student’s sample.



Flow-Chart of the population sample

Tools used for data collection: One standardized tool was used to collect the relevant data in the present study. The tool have been briefly described below

Internet Awareness Scale (IAS):- The Internet awareness scale was constructed to assess the awareness of the student of Dibrugarh University regarding internet usage. The scale included the following dimensions-(a) the concept of internet. (b) Browsing information from internet (c) Browsing academic

information from internet (d) Communication through internet. The draft scale originally consisted of 72 items that were later reduced to 57 items. The reliability of the Internet Awareness Scale was computed by both of split half method and Cronbach's Alpha method. The reliability of the scale was found to be .88 by split half method and .87 by Cranach's Alpha method. To determine the validity of the internet awareness scale content validity was calculated. The validity of the tool was also found to be quite satisfactory.

Collection of data: Data were collected during the months of February to April, 2016. In order to collect data the investigator had visited the selected Departments/Centre for studies/Institutions under Dibrugarh University. After getting the formal permission from the HOD of concerned departments' data was collected. Students were briefed about the nature and the purpose of the current study. Students were assured about the confidentiality of the data. After establishing a good rapport with the students, the students were asked to read the instructions carefully before giving their responses. The investigator also provided oral instructions. When the students completed responding, the filled in copies were then collected.

Findings of the study

The findings of the present study has been presented with respect to all the objectives-

Establishing the Criterion of Parametric Test through Histogram with NPC (Normal Probability Curve) and Normal p-p plot of Internet awareness of students studying in Dibrugarh University

For displaying the nature of the distribution in the geographical form, the histogram and its NPC with normal P-P Plot of Internet Awareness is shown in figure 1.1 and figure 1.2 respectively .The Histogram is the style of presentation of data graphically and NPC is the indication of normality, which are presented in a single graph to comprehend about the nature of the distribution. The Histogram and the NPC showing the distribution of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet was presented to observe the features of normality (Figure: 1.1)

Histogram with NPC showing the Distribution of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet

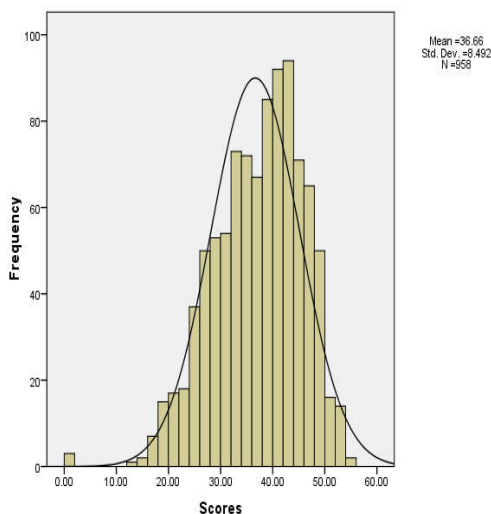


Figure 1.1 Histogram with NPC showing the Distribution of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet

From the Histogram with NPC, (Figure:1.1), it is cleared that the bars of the histograms from the point 40 to point 50 have crossed the NPC line, i.e. a small portion of the Histogram is outside the NPC area. Thus it can be concluded that it is very slightly diverted from the Normal Probability Curve.

Normal P-P Plot representing the distribution of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet

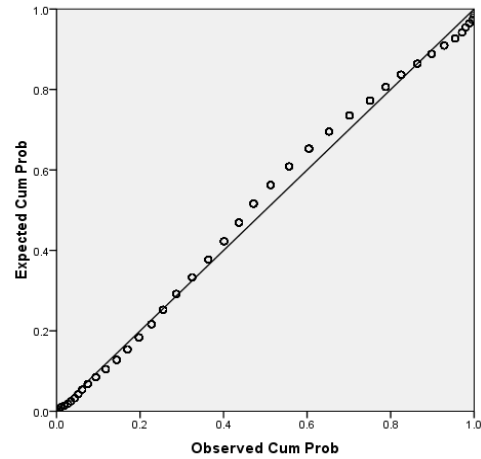


Figure 1.2 Normal P-P Plot representing the distribution of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet

It is observed from the figure: 1.2 that the small circles near the point 0.6 observed cum probability and expected cum probability is slightly diverted from the NPC line. However, from Figure: 1.2, it is also cleared that all other small circles relatively touches the base NPC line of the Distribution. Thus, it can be concluded that the distribution of the awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet is normal in nature.

Levels of Internet Awareness of the Students of Dibrugarh University

The scores obtained by the students of Dibrugarh University in the awareness scale were used to calculate Mean, Median, Standard Deviation, Quartile Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis. Table 1.1 shows the level of awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University towards internet.

Table-1.1 Level of internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University

Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Quartile Deviation	Skewness (Sk)	Kurtosis (Ku)
36.66	38	42	8.49	6	-0.53	0.28

The value of Mean, Median, Standard Deviation and Quartile Deviation of the distribution of scores on internet awareness obtained by the students of Dibrugarh University are found to be 36.66, 38, 42, 8.49 and 6 respectively. The value of Sk is -0.53. Thus, the Distribution is slightly negatively skewed or to the left. The value of Ku is .28. Thus the distribution is approximately mesokurtic.

Figure 1.3 shows the distribution of the students of Dibrugarh University on the basis of the scores obtained in Internet Awareness Scale.

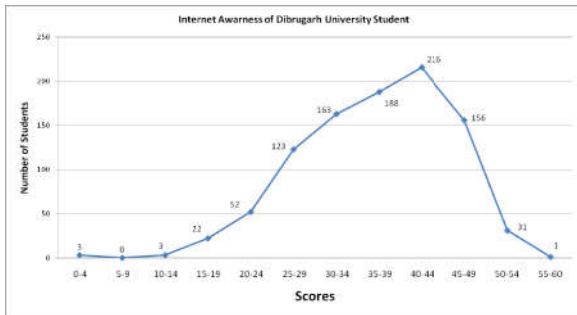


Figure 1.3 Internet Awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University

It is clear from figure 1.3 that out of 958 university students, 3 students obtained the scores ranges from 0-4 and 10-14, 22 students scored between 15-19, 52 students scored between 20-24, 123 students scored between 25-29, 163 students scored between 30-34 and 188 students scored between 35-39, 216 students scored between 40-44, 156 students scored between 45-49, 31 students scored between 50-54 and only one students scored between 55-60. From the above figure it is clear that majority of the students (216) scored between 40- 44.

Comparison of Internet Awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University on the basis of programme of study (Liberal and Professional programme of study)

In order to compare the internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University on the basis of programme of study t-value was calculated. Table 1.2 shows the comparison of internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University with respect to different programme of study.

The following null hypothesis was formulated for testing if there is any significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension ‘Concept of Internet’, “There is no significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of concept of internet.” The ‘t’ value is found to be 13 which is significant at .01 level. Hence the null hypothesis could be rejected at .01 level of significance (Table value = 2.58). Thus, there is a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional Programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension ‘Concept of internet’. The mean score (9.14) obtained by the students of Professional programme of study with respect to the dimension ‘Concept of Internet’ is greater than the mean score (7.01) obtained by the students of Liberal programme of study.

To examine the difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of ‘Browsing information from internet’, the null hypothesis was formulated as “There is no significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of browsing information from internet.” The ‘t’ value is found to be 11.42 which is significant at .01 level (Table value =2.58).Thus there is a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension ‘Browsing information from internet’. The mean score (11.88) obtained by the students of Professional programme of study with respect to the dimension ‘Browsing information from internet’ is greater than the mean score

(10.05) obtained by the students of Liberal programme of study. To test the difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of ‘Browsing academic information from internet’, the null hypothesis was formulated as “There is no significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of browsing academic information from internet.” The ‘t’ value is found to be 5.74 which is significant at .01 level (Table value =2.58). Thus there is a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension ‘Browsing academic information from internet’. The mean score (8.35) obtained by the students of Professional programme of study with respect to the dimension ‘Browsing academic information from internet’ is greater than the mean score (7.43) obtained by the students of Liberal programme of study.

In order to test if there is any significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of ‘Communication through internet’, the null hypothesis was formulated as “There is no significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of communication through internet.” The ‘t’ value is found to be 6.31 which is significant at .01 level (Table value =2.58).Thus there is a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension ‘Communication through internet’. The mean score (10.26) obtained by the students of Professional programme of study with respect to the dimension ‘Communication through internet’ is greater than the mean score (9.20) obtained by the students of Liberal programme of study.

Comparison of the Internet Awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University with different streams (Science, Arts and Commerce)

In order to compare the internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University with different stream ‘F-test’ was used. Table 1.3 shows the comparison of internet awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University with different streams.

The following null hypothesis was formulated for testing if there is any significant difference in internet awareness of the students of Science, Arts and Commerce under Dibrugarh University. There is no significant difference between the students of arts; science and commerce Stream of Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards the internet are concerned. Here ‘F’ value is found to be 75.68, which is significant at .01 level. Hence null hypothesis could be rejected .01 level (table value=2.58).Thus, there is a significant difference between the students of different streams, viz Science, Arts and Commerce as far as their awareness towards the internet is concerned.

Comparison of the Internet Awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University on the basis of gender (Male and Female)

The ‘t-test’ was used to compare the Internet Awareness (Dimension wise) between male and female students of Dibrugarh University. Table 1.4 shows the comparison of

Table-1.2 Comparison of the Internet Awareness (Dimension Wise) between the students' of Liberal and Professional programme of study under Dibrugarh University

Categories	N	Dimensions of Internet Awareness	Mean	SD	t	df	Significance
Liberal programme of study	958	Concept of Internet	7.01	7.37	13.00	956	Significant at .01 level
Professional programme of study	958	Concept of Internet	9.14	5.50			
Liberal programme of study	586	Browsing information from internet	10.05	7.06	11.42	956	Significant at .01 level
Professional programme of study	372	Browsing information from internet	11.88	5.23			
Liberal programme of study	586	Browsing academic information from internet	7.43	5.60	5.74	956	Significant at .01 level
Professional Programme Of study	372	Browsing academic information from internet	8.35	6.75			
Liberal programme of study	586	Communication through internet	9.20	7.52	6.31	956	Significant at .01 level
Professional programme of study	372	Communication through internet	10.26	6.17			

Table-1.3 Comparison of the Internet Awareness of the students of Dibrugarh University with different stream

Stream	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Squares	F	P-value	Significance
Between Groups	8000.8873	2	4000.444	75.68	2.89	Significant at .01 level
Within Groups	25160.511	476	52.85822			
Total	33161.399	478				

Table-1.4 Comparison of the Internet Awareness (Dimension Wise) between Female and Male student's of Dibrugarh University

Categories	N	Dimensions of Internet Awareness	Mean	SD	t	df	Significance
Female	586	Concept of Internet	7.46	2.69	8.94	956	Significant at .01 level
Male	372	Concept of Internet	9.03	2.56			
Female	586	Browsing information from internet	10.41	2.56	8.40	956	Significant at .01 level
Male	372	Browsing information from internet	11.84	2.54			
Female	586	Browsing academic information from internet	7.59	2.36	4.63	956	Significant at .01 level
Male	372	Browsing academic information from internet	8.36	2.69			
Female	586	Communication through internet	9.56	2.66	2.43	956	Not significant at .01 level
Male	372	Communication through internet	9.99	2.653			

Internet Awareness (dimension wise) between male and female students of Dibrugarh University.

The following null hypothesis was formulated for testing if there is any significant difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension 'Concept of Internet', "There is no significant difference between the male and female students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of concept of internet." The 't' value is found to be 8.94 which is significant at .01 level. Hence the null hypothesis could be rejected at .01 level of significance (Table value = 2.58). Thus, there is a significant difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension 'Concept of internet'. The mean score (9.03) obtained by male students with respect to the dimension 'Concept of Internet' is greater than the mean score (7.46) obtained by female students.

To examine the difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of 'Browsing information from internet', the null hypothesis was formulated as "There is no significant difference between the male and female students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of browsing information from internet." The 't' value is found to be 8.40 which is significant at .01 level (Table value = 2.58). Thus, there is a significant difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension 'Browsing information from internet'. The mean score (11.84) obtained by male students with respect to the dimension 'Browsing information from internet' is greater than the mean score (10.41) obtained by female students.

To test the difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of 'Browsing academic information from internet', the null hypothesis was formulated as "There is no significant difference between the male and female students of Dibrugarh

University with respect to the dimension of browsing academic information from internet." The 't' value is found to be 4.63 which is significant at .01 level (Table value = 2.58). Thus there is a significant difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension 'Browsing academic information from internet'. The mean score (8.36) obtained by male students with respect to the dimension 'Browsing academic information from internet' is greater than the mean score (7.59) obtained by female students.

In order to test if there is any significant difference between male and female students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of 'Communication through internet', the null hypothesis was formulated as "There is no significant difference between the male and female students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of communication through internet." The 't' value is found to be 2.43 which is not significant at .01 level (Table value = 2.58). Thus there is no significant difference between female and male students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension 'Communication through internet'. The mean score (9.99) obtained by male students with respect to the dimension 'Communication through internet' is almost equal to the mean score (9.56) obtained by female students.

CONCLUSION

The above study revealed that there is a significant difference between the students of Liberal and Professional Programme of study under Dibrugarh University so far as their awareness towards internet is concerned. The mean score obtained by the students of Professional programme of study is greater the mean score obtained by the students of Liberal programme of study with respect to all the dimension of Internet Awareness i.e. Concept of internet, Browsing information from internet, Browsing academic information from internet and Communication through internet.

The present study also revealed a significant difference between the students of different streams studying in Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards internet is concerned. A significant difference was observed in mean score of internet awareness between the students of Science, Arts and Commerce stream. The mean internet awareness score obtained by the students of Commerce stream (40.09) was greater than the mean study habit score obtained by the students of Science (36.62) and Arts stream (30.17)

A significant difference was also found between female and male students of Dibrugarh University as far as their awareness towards internet is concerned. The mean score of internet awareness of the male students is more than the female students with respect to the dimension of Concept of internet, Browsing information from internet and Browsing academic information from internet. However no significant difference was found between the male and female students of Dibrugarh University with respect to the dimension of communication through internet.

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