

## **THE UNIVERSALITY OF INTERNET ADDICTION AMONG 10 + 2 LEVEL OF STUDENTS IN WEST BENGAL (INDIA)**

**ARSHAD HOSSAIN**

Assistant Teacher, West Bengal, India

### **ABSTRACT**

Excessive use of the Internet is commonly termed as compulsive use of Internet or problematic Internet use which is changing human life dramatically. Excessive computer and Internet use and other regular habits such as watching YouTube, internet videos or movies, playing games are becoming responsible for unhealthy daily lifestyle.

The purpose of this study is to find out the prevalence of Internet Addiction among the 10+2 level of students and also to know the Internet Addiction level among the sample. The present researches have also tried to examine the Impacts of Internet addiction with respect to Gender.

**KEYWORDS:** Internet & Internet Addiction

### **INTRODUCTION**

The tremendous development of Information Communication technology may be analyzed with the development of the Internet. One of the influential tools of ICT is the Internet which is using to minimize the communication gap. But the availability of easy internet services through mobiles, laptops, computers are causing internet addiction. Maximum use of the Internet is affecting the students of various levels educationally, spiritually and morally.

Generally, Internet Addiction may be defined as the users using the Internet excessively every day. Excessive use of the Internet develops mismanagement and disturbance in user's daily routine life. Limitless access to Internet can affect student's academic performance in every stage. In the present world is becoming dependent on this information communication technology which may be termed as Internet dependency. Internet dependency is making Internet addicts frequency. So more internet addicts may develop more social isolation, and a large number of users are facing abnormality, mental disability, depression, abnormal attitude etc.

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Fallows et.al (2005) showed that women are mainly appreciating the Internet for its communication possibilities with friends and family whereas men are mainly appreciating the Internet for its broad possibilities.

Aslanbay et.al (2009) studied on the Internet and found there are significant gender differences were discovered. The result showed that 1% of women and 9% of men were reported as addicts.

Goel et.al (2013) conducted a study on the prevalence of Internet addiction. In their crosssectional study, males in comparison to females were more addicted found.

Wallace, P (2014) in his study found over 12% of males and 5% of female students disclosed signs of Internet

addiction in China.

Sharma et.al (2016) studied on high school student to find out patterns of Internet use. It is found significantly more in males than females.

### Objectives of the Study

- To know the universality of Internet Addiction among 10+2 level of students.
- To find out the level of Internet Addiction among 10+2 level of students.
- Study the gender difference with reference to Internet Addiction.

### Null Hypothesis of the Study

**H<sub>0</sub>1:** The Internet Addiction between male and female students of 10+2 levels do not differ significantly.

**H<sub>0</sub>2:** The prevalence of Internet Addiction does not vary among 10+2 level of students.

**H<sub>0</sub>3:** The level of Internet addiction among the students of 10+2 levels do not vary significantly.

**H<sub>0</sub>4:** Gender will have no impact on Internet Addiction behavior of 10+2 level of students.

**Population:** The students of 10+2 level of different schools of West Bengal (India).

**Sample:** 600 students 10+2 level have been selected randomly among them males 304 and female 296 from 20 different schools.

**Tools Used:** Internet Addiction Test (IAT) developed by Kimberly Young (1996) was taken as a tool for this present study. The reliability of IAT was found 0.91 and after testing the content validity, the test was found to be a valid test.

In the present study, the mean of the total sample is 27.94 and SD is 11.934. So the level of Internet Addiction may be defined as

**Table 1: Internet Addiction Level**

Levels of Internet Addiction	Ranges
Low user(normal)	16 – 29
Moderate user(non problematic)	30- 50
High user(problematic)	51 – 100

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**H<sub>0</sub>1:** The Internet Addictions between male and female students of 10+2 level of West Bengal do not differ significantly.

**Table 2: Inferential Statistics of Internet Addiction Between Male and Female**

Gender	Internet Addiction			Total
	Normal	Non-Problematic	Problematic	
Male	176	108	20	304
	29.3%	18.0%	3.3%	50.7%
Female	190	98	8	296
	31.7%	16.3%	1.3%	49.3%
Total	<b>366</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>600</b>
	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) (2, N = 600) = 6.06,  $p < 0.01$

The above table demonstrates that among male students 29.3% normal, 18.0% are non-problematic and 3.3% are problematic internet addicted whereas among female students 31.7% are normal, 16.3% are non-problematic and 1.3% are problematic internet addicted. To test the hypothesis, the researcher applied chi-square test. The computed chi-square value is 6.06 and the degrees of freedom are 2. The calculated value is much higher than critical chi-square value at the 0.01 level of significance. So the null hypothesis would be rejected.

**H<sub>0</sub>2:** Prevalence of Internet Addiction among 10+2 level of students.

**Table 3**

Gender	N	Number of Addicts	Percentage
Male	304	20	3.3
Female	296	8	1.3

From the above table, it can be concluded that male was more addicted than female.

**H<sub>0</sub>3:** Levels of Internet Addiction among 10+2 level of students

**Table 4**

Internet Addiction level	Total	Percentage
Low level	366	61.0
Moderate level	206	34.3
High level(addicts)	28	4.7

From the above level, it can be concluded that the number of low-level users were more as compared to moderate and high level.

**H<sub>0</sub>4:** Impact of gender on Internet Addiction

**Table 5**

Gender	Mean	SD	t- value
Male	30.01	12.244	4.34
Female	25.81	11.233	

From the above table, it can be said that the mean score of male students is high as compare to their female counterpart. t- a value of mean scores of male and female is 4.34 which is significant at 0.05 levels, so it can be said that there is an impact of gender on Internet Addiction.

## CONCLUSIONS

In 1995 Internet Addiction was first introduced by Ivan Goldberg and developed by Kimberley Young (1996). In the study of Scherer (1997), male gender is a significant predictor of the Internet Addiction. Another study by Tsai et.al (2009) showed that in eastern culture family supervision may prevent females from spending much time on the internet than male. In the study of the Esen and Siyez (2011) concluded that males are more addicted than females. In another study by Kurtoglu and Kurtoglu (2009) concluded that internet addiction level on average of the male teacher was higher than of female teacher candidates.

The present researcher found that the Internet addiction level is quiet higher than that of the female students of 10+2 level. So precaution should be taken more than that of female students of 10+2 level in West Bengal (India).

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