

INTERNET: USE AND MISUSE

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Introduction:

Parent child relationship is unconditional and one-off. Raising children is an ingenious endeavor: AnArtas well asa Science. Most of the Parents master this Art and Science the difficult way i.e. through their own experiences. It is the Parents, whoexperiences first thebehavioral, physical, psychological and emotional changes as their children grow. They not only observe changed lifestyles of their children in first place but also are affected by the same. Most of the parents fail to understand that their child will grow up and collect specificinformation as they turn out to be adolescent. Problem with most of the parents is that they do not acknowledge that adolescent do a few crazy things in their adolescence. Although they have gone through the same phase in their own life. Internet now a days has modified the lifestyles of the adolescent and their relationship with the parents. Hence it was worth studying that how internet has progressively oozed into the life of adolescent with following objectives in mind.

Objectives:

The broad objective of the study was to examine the use of internet amongst the teens in the State of Rajasthan.

The specificobjectives were:

- To assess the frequency, duration and things adolescent do on social networking sites.
- To locate exceptional elements related to use of social networking sites and frequently accessed websites.

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Methodology:

The study was carried out in urban areas of five major districts, of Rajasthan i.e. Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Ajmer and Udaipur. It blanketed 4500 adolescent studying in government and private Schools and Colleges.

Selection of Sample:

Selection of adolescent was accomplished after deciding on all 6 institutions per district totaling to 30 institutions in the state. In each of the chosen group the adolescents were enrolled in classes from 9th to 12th. Attendance register and their roll call was used to identify and select students through random sampling method. A total of 150 students were selected each from 6 institutes in every district making it to 900 students. Thus, the sample was representative of all the sections of the population. In total 30 institutions were chosen in the study i.e. 10 public schools, 10 private schools, 5 public colleges, 5 private colleges. In every district 900 students i.e. 450 from government institutions and 450 adolescents from private were chosen for the study. In all 4500 youth were selected comprising of 900 from every district.

Tools and Techniques:

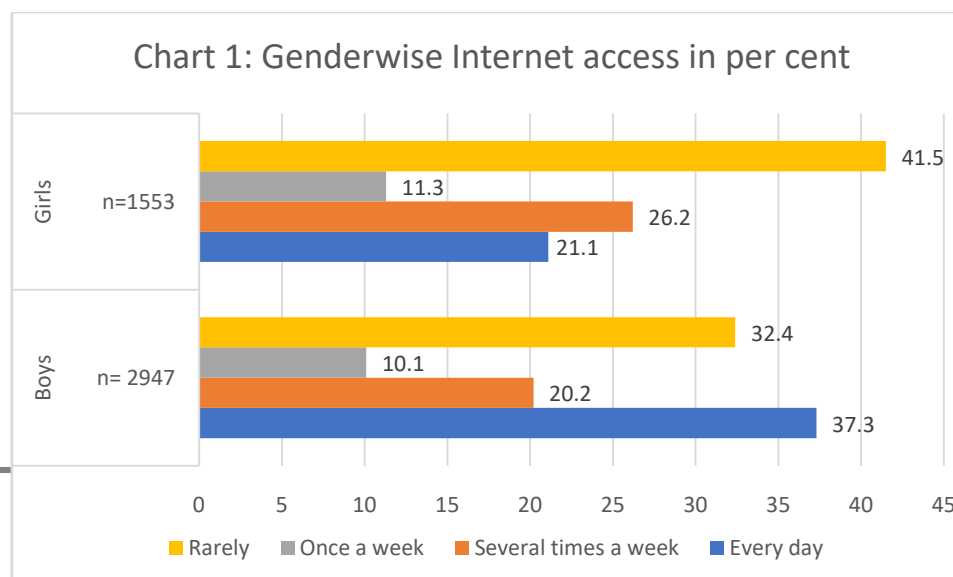
Both quantitative and qualitative tools were used to investigate the frequency and characteristics of the internet use. All the tools were bilingual to facilitate better understanding of the participants as well as investigators if they wanted a quick reference.

Statistical Analysis:

The analysis was carried out with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-16). Percentages and Mean had been used as computational techniques.

Findings and discussion:

Duration of use of Internet: The qualitative information supports the findings of quantitative records, which reflects that the internet has stepped in the pedagogy and curriculum as seen in the



calculated mean of the students. The net usage through 'smart phones' was gaining momentum currently, which was

one of the significant causes of increased web use by adolescents.

Frequency of Internet access:

It can be seen from Chart 1 that one third adolescent boys fall in the category of those having access to net each day. Table also portrays that one fifth of adolescent boys suggested that they access internet quite a few times i.e. 3-4 times in a week. About three fifth of the adolescent boys and a little less than fifty per cent of girls had a chance to access net frequently in a week.

The findings of Lenhart, Madden, & Hitlin,¹ additionally supported the findings that more than 80% of American youth, aged between 12 to 17, used the Internet, and almost half of them log on daily. In line of the above results, Shen & Shakir² additionally favors the findings of UAE. According to their study the majority of the students (86%) access the Internet every day while the rest access the internet between 3 – 6 times per week. This confirms that using Internet has become their daily routine.

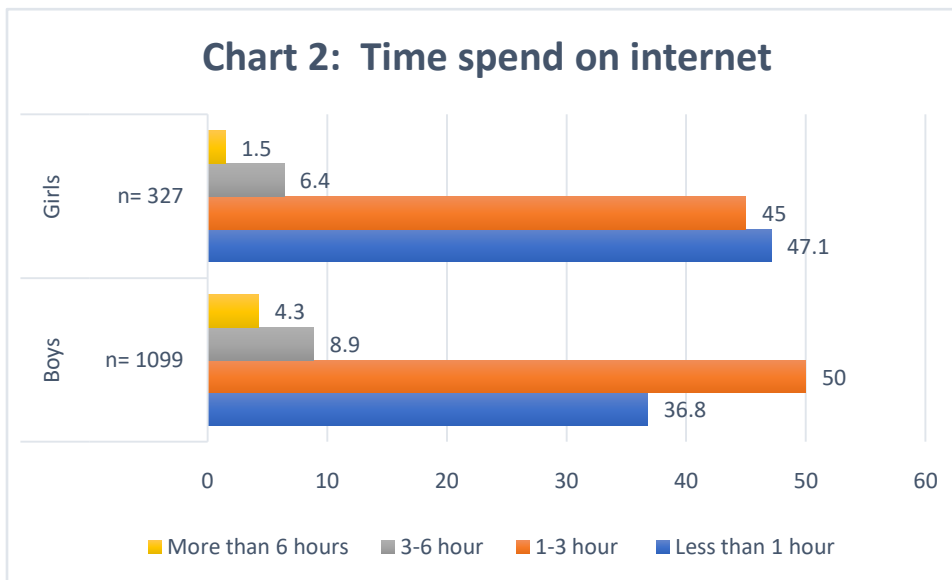
These results proclaim that in each and every area sizable percentage of youth had been gaining access to net every day for varied purposes. The outcomes depict that earlier each day use of Internet was a commonplace behavior amongst adolescent, whether it was for socialization, studies, or for a variety of other activities. Adolescents put net to vast uses, from preserving music of friends, to enjoying video games to getting to know about school activities. Due to its easy accessibility and availability, the frequency of Internet use has increased amongst adolescents. Along with every day net usage, it was once also indispensable to recognize how many waking hours practically an adolescent spends on internet.

Duration of time spend on internet:

Chart 2 suggests that fifty percent of adolescent boys spend time that range from 1-3 hours daily on internet. Spending three and more than three hours a day on net was once definitely a matter of concern and via this pattern of internet usage by boys brings then in the type of immoderate internet users. Around 13 per cent of adolescent boys at the same time come in the range of having access to internet for 3-6 and extra than 6 hours daily, which symbolize the category of net addiction.

On the other hand, from the quantitative information of adolescent girls nearly half of them lie in the category of accessing net every day for less than one hour i.e. they fall in the category of average net users.

According to the outcomes 45 per cent of the adolescent girls' access net in a day for 1-3 hours, which used to be substantial as they have been approaching towards the type of internet addiction. The little distinction in the outcomes of adolescent boys and girls had been supported with the aid of many researches finished in the previous few years. Girls activity and self-belief in the use of the Internet was high but, when a comparison with boys' respondents was made, the girls have not taken Internet rapidly, said Heimrath and Goulding's³



Boys sense more proficient and enjoyable the usage of the laptop technological know-how and the Internet when in contrast to woman classmates, Sherman et al.⁴. Study on gender and web with the aid of

Winker (2005)⁵ also showed differential usage sample in phrases of frequency of internet. Along with other factors, time was once an essential variable to use the Internet in which men use the Internet extra regularly and for longer hours whilst girls were in the class of reasonable customers.

Time spent on Internet activities:

Chart 3 portrays that adolescent boys spend time on Social Networking Sites, which includes i.e. surfing, studying and posting to news, dialogue agencies on internet, e-mail, video chats and web games. It has been found that Social Networking Sites were frequently used by adolescent boys because they were extra inclined in the direction of touring a virtual world. Adolescent boys

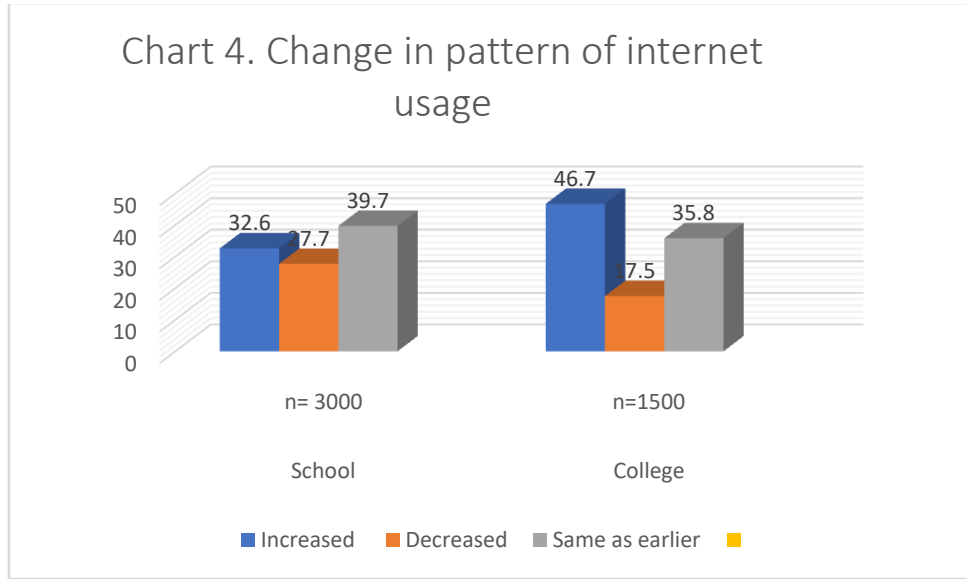
spend on common one hour per day on surfing. Study performed in America by Nielsen (2009)⁶ also supports the finding of the above research. The higher amount of time spend on Social Networks suggests that adolescent boys spend their on-line time on speaking and networking across Social Networks.

The qualitative facts of the research additionally help the finding that boys have been more interested in making on line pals through Social Networks and they have been much less inclined to mingle in household gatherings. They access Social Networks at least once a day. Adolescent social networkers update their web page at least once a week. In line with FGD's the girls use Internet more for looking out for information, in comparison to different things to do on internet. The suggested rankings of the youth from college and University depicts that the college going teenagers had been greater engaged in Social Networks online than browsing and the other internet activities. While on the different facet their counterparts i.e. young people of college scored best possible in browsing on internet. Outcome of the interviews also guide the results that school going adolescents have been extra indulging in making friends online through Facebook, as they were in the transition section and were no longer aware of right or wrong, but on the other hand, college teenagers spend almost equal time on browsing and Social Networking, as they have been especially mature and aware about their career. The results from each government and private sectors exhibit that teenagers belonging to both the sectors rating high on Social Networking and then Surfing. Findings of the above-mentioned desk summarize that Social Network was the foremost endeavor on internet which consumes nearly one or more than one hour daily of young people in urban Rajasthan, accompanied via internet surfing. This corroborate with the qualitative facts gathered throughout the study that today's adolescents have been more inclined in the direction of virtual relationships and enjoys spending one hour each day strengthening these relationships.

Prominence of day-to-day getting access to Social Networks by means of young people presents an insight to the significance of Social Networks in the average teenager's everyday life. The above outcomes have been in line with the FGDs performed with adolescents. During the FGDs, majority of the teenagers in every district said that Facebook was the most important activity for which they join net daily.

Change in pattern of Internet usage:

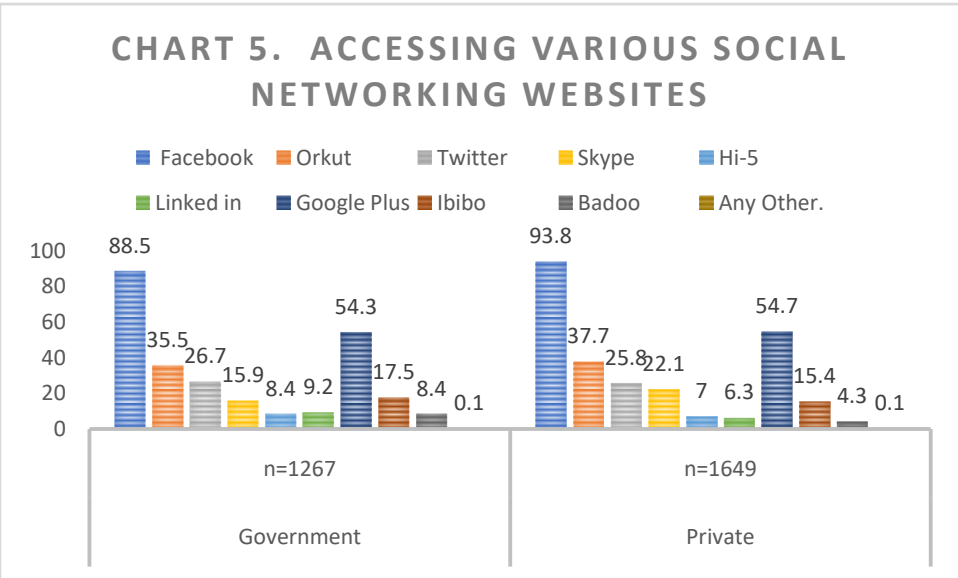
Chart 4 portrays that for more than one third of adolescent there was no change in their net utilization pattern, neither has it extended nor it has decreased.



While on the other hand, increment in net was once stated in case of 32 per cent of adolescents, which was also considerable. By contrast, a little less than half of the university going youth in the existing

study reveals that their duration of web access has been raised in the closing three months, whilst more than one third of college going youth were of the view that there was no change in the length of their internet access. The absolute best proportion of college teenagers reporting make bigger in their internet utilization reflects that the university children had been the use of web for varied purposes like on line admission, online examination forms, browsing for jobs, maintaining music of their college buddies and so on.

A detailing at the variations in accessing various social networking sites presents a better picture



of the magnitude of differences in the enhanced usage of internet among school and university adolescents. The group discussion with teens indicates

that most of the university going youngsters has noticed top notch adjustments in their web utilization sample in the last few months. More than one third of the boys and girl of government and personal zone reported an extend in their web usage at some stage in the last three months. Chart 5 displays that the highest percentage of young people each from government and private region get entry to normally Facebook i.e. around ninety percent. After Facebook, the most favored desire of both government and private region young people used to be getting access to Google Plus. One of the most popular Social Networking Sites was Facebook. On websites such as this, customers can furnish private information, continuously update information, and even chat with friends and family. Development of these purposes (Social Networking Sites) holds big attraction for adolescents—especially Facebook. Social Networking Sites permit persons to interact, share, and examine from humans of their interest and assist them stay connected. In a unique learn about Lam, Zi-wen, Jin-Cheng and Jin, (2009)⁷ suggested that stress related variables are a motive for youth to get overly concerned with internet. Some other research targeted on the imperativeness of Social networking sites, as stated via Lenhart and Madden, (2007)⁸ in the past five year's social networking has “rocketed from an area of interest pastime into a phenomenon that engages tens of millions of Internet users. Research by Neelambar and Chitra, (2009)⁹ a magnificent 95% of the sample population was once member of one or more social networking sites which truly makes a robust assertion among Indian youth. Breaking the statistics down further, almost 50% of the respondents have been members of Orkut and 30% were of Facebook whilst different websites cited have been My-Space, Big-Adda, Linked-in, WAYN, Hi5, Style FM, Twitter, Ning, India-rocks, Tagged, Net-log, Friendster, e-buddy and Vampire freaks. Lenhart, Madden et.al., (2011)¹⁰. The reputation of Facebook amongst different Social Networking Sites also highlighted out of the responses of boys and girls in School and university. Facebook has pronounced as one of their on-line activity by the highest per cent of the respondents in each category. The group wise and gender wise information of teens displays the identical findings that Facebook used to be the most famous Social Networking Site amongst adolescent.

In line with different qualitative information like FGDs with adolescents and structured in-depth interviews also confirms the findings that the most popular Social Networking Site used to be Facebook among adolescent fraternity.

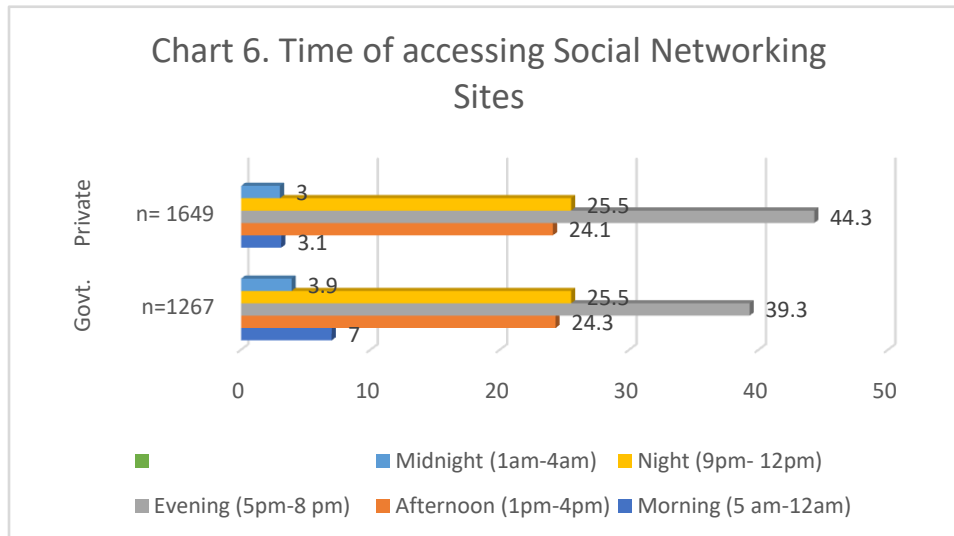


Table 6 reflects that the very best variety of young people both from Government and private sector get entry to Social Networking Sites frequently in the evening i.e. from

5p.m. to 8 p.m.

Near about half of the private area adolescent access internet in night which used to be little more than their counterparts whose per cent used to be close to about forty per cent. It has also located that one fourth of the respondents each from authorities and personal sector irrespective of gender and institutions choose to access Social Networking Sites at night, which was a big per cent. The qualitative data viz. Focus Group Discussions with teenagers reveals that they get right of entry to Social Networking Sites usually all through evening and night time due to the fact they have spare time in evenings as their household participants are busy in their very own world. The speed of web was once also one of the necessary motives for getting access to Social Networks in evening hours. One of the case studies about the adolescents revealed that for young school students; the evening time was used as refreshing time and to meet on-line to discuss homework and assignments. The responses obtained from the faculty and university going adolescents, both boys and girls, in Rajasthan confirms their desire for gaining access to Social Networking Sites in night hours.

Recommendations:

The need for web can surely not be denied in particular for adolescent as it is the most cost and time efficient medium to acquire and reach any variety of information. The problem arises when the usage goes beyond being 'need centered'. Though time restrict is imposed with the aid of some of the parents but there is a need to enforce it more strictly. The time spent on line by using adolescents ought to be regulated at organization and home by way of instructors and parents.

Social networks where on one hand build and make stronger relations, on the other hand ruin the real-life socialization of adolescents. Parents ought to make sure the confined use of social networks. There must be maximum communication among family members, with friends and significant others. Avoidance of being a active member of social gatherings regularly transforms into dependency and then into trait and, thus, this practice of young people need to be discouraged by the parents at this very stage only. Finally, although we recognize that adolescent try to find the real world in digital world due to the fact of peer pressure however it wishes to be appropriately discouraged. Government and media additionally have a pivotal role in spreading the awareness among adolescents. The appropriate web use desires to be understood by the adolescent. The answer lies in proper schooling at right time through parents and teachers. A proactive selfless role of Media, Government and NGOs is the necessity of the time. Private sector under their Corporate Social Responsibility can focus on educating adolescents for adequate and appropriate use of internet.

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